

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News	397
Leading Articles:—	
Peking Canards	398
Late Emperor of China	398
The Boycott	399
Manchu-Chinese Marriages	399
Malaria in Hongkong	400
Random Reflections	400
Hongkong News	401
Hongkong Legislative Council	401
Government House	404
A Chinese Love Story	401
Sanitary Board	404
An Abduction Charge	406
A Valuable Find	406
Supreme Court	406
Illicit Opium	407
Reckless Driving	407
Interesting Fortune Telling Case	408
A Story of the Sea	409
Company Meeting:—	
Dunlop Rubber Plantation Co., Ltd.	409
Preferred Jail to Exile	409
Canton Municipal Council	409
Shipping Notes	410
Contemplated Improvements at Haiphong ..	410
Serious Floods in the West River	410
A Bishopric for Archdeacon Banister	410
Trade of India	410
Notes from Japan	411
The Unwritten Law	411
China Association—Shanghai Branch	412
The Emperor's Funeral	412
The Siberian Mail	412
Currency in China	413
Civil Service Estimates	414
Imperial Wedding in Japan	414
Tennis Match and Distribution of Prizes ..	415
Shanghai Races	415
London Rubber Reports	415
Far Eastern Telegrams	416
Review	416
Opium Cultivation in India	416
Commercial	416
Shipping	420

BIRTH.

On May 3rd, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. W. P. O. MIDDLETON, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

At Kobe, on the 17th instant, JOHN JULIUS DARE, only son of the late JOHN CATTO ABELL, of Aberdeen, Scotland, to VESTA, youngest daughter of the late Rev. J. L. ATKINSON, M.A., D.D. of Kobe.

On March 3rd, at Croydon, H. R. YGLESIAS, to ENID MARY, daughter of late E. E. DEAR, of Hongkong.

On Friday, April 23rd, at Shanghai, HERBERT HENRY, youngest son of the late WILLIAM FOWLER, and Mrs. FOWLER, of Shanghai, to GLADYS, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. BAXTER LAMOND, Shanghai.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD C.
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ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The English Mail of the 16th April, and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 7th of April, and for despatch overland on the 14th April, arrived per s.s. *Oceana* on the 12th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

News has reached Ceylon from Suez that Mr. N. Lazarus, the optician, has died of cancer.

The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Still, of Canton, was announced in a London paper on the 5th ult.

Lieut.-Colonel M. S. Riach, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, on completing the qualifying period in command of the 2nd Battalion, stationed at Tientsin, has been promoted brevet-colonel.

Governor-General Smith of the Philippine Islands, was a passenger on the *Nikko Maru* proceeding to America, and while in Hongkong was a guest of H. E. Sir Frederick Lugard at Government House.

Mr. A. W. H. Bellingham, engineer to the British Municipal Council at Tientsin, has been nominated by the Chinese authorities to succeed Mr. C. W. Kinder, late General Manager and Engineer-in-Chief of the Imperial Railways of North China, Tongshan.

The Shanghai Police, in accordance with a municipal notification have blocked the Alhambra by erecting stout bamboo barriers across the Siccawei road, and only people furnished with police permits are allowed to pass the barrier. Recently the police made a raid on the Alhambra and removed the roulette wheels, and an interesting police court case has resulted in which an Indian watchman has been charged with threatening to shoot Colonel Bruce, the Superintendent of Police.

A St. Petersburg correspondent says it appears certain that the Government will meet the demands of the Central Russian manufacturers, who are asking for increased trade facilities in the way of lower tariffs, insurance, &c., on the routes serving the Far East. The abolition of free imports at Vladivostok is proving of inestimable value to industry in Central Russia, and if the Government acts as it is expected, it will mean that foreign goods will be practically shut out of the Far East.

In view of the unsatisfactory state of horse-racing affairs in Japan, the Vladivostok Race Club, which is under Government control, has been approached by several of those interested in racing in Japan, with the idea of affording Japan racing men facilities for sending their horses to race at Vladivostok. The Committee of the Vladivostok Club are very anxious to offer every possible inducement to horse-owners to send their horses to Vladivostok on account of the present scarcity of race-horses at that port, and have made proposals for their Autumn Meeting.

The report of the China Export-Import and Bank-Compagnie zu Hamburg for 1908 shows available profit of m. 1,255,200. The usual 4 per cent. dividend is declared, and an extra dividend of 46 per cent. making 50 per cent. in all. The total reserves are m. 1,500,000. A balance of m. 5,282 is carried forward. The report states that business in general in Japan was little favourable. In North China matters were only brought to a more or less satisfactory result by great exertions. Conditions were highly unfavourable. The Company had in Southern China a small quiet but healthy business. The surprising fluctuations in silver again impeded business.

Under the proposed Chinese Naturalization Code, it is provided that Chinese may be naturalized foreign subjects and *vice versa*. Inter-marriages between Chinese and foreign subjects are also allowed. It is laid down that undertakings of voluntary consent must be in made in all cases and must be placed on record with the Chinese Government.

A correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* identifies one of the two Germans murdered in Yunnan as Dr. Brunhuber whom he knew some years ago in Shanghai. He was formerly on the staff of the *Kölnische Zeitung* and when he went home two years ago he said that he should be out again to travel in and learn more of the Far East. Since then he has travelled in India, China, Korea and Japan and again returned home. In a letter from him dated Bhamo, November 8, 1908, he told how he intended to go through to the Yangtze and so down to Shanghai. His murderers at Weiksi are understood to be the native tribes of the district and not Chinese.

Chinese Public Opinion, a small newspaper which has been published in the Chinese Capital for about twelve months, has ceased to exist, and in its place we have the *Peking Daily News*. The former paper had occasional assistance from English journalists in Peking, but the new journal will be entirely under Chinese management. "Its measures will be Chinese; its methods will be Chinese; its sympathies and convictions, its head and heart will be all Chinese." Mr. Li Sum Ling (formerly of Hongkong) whose name was prominently associated with the *New York Herald's* advocacy of an alliance between the United States and China, seems to be the Editor of the new paper.

Under the caption "La Traite des Jaunes," a Haiphong contemporary comments on the "traffic in human flesh" destined for the flower boats of Canton which goes on from that district. Severe repressive measures at Haiphong have merely caused a diversion of the trade. "The sons of Heaven" are unwilling to give up a commerce so remunerative though presenting enormous danger. Haiphong is the place where the kidnappers—Annamite and Chinese women—still operate, and it is only the port of embarkation that has been changed to Hongay. They do not employ any brutal force, but they gain their ends by persuasion with the assistance of a drug in the drink they induce the girls to take, making them foolish and irresponsible for their actions.

It was with much regret, says the *Foochow Echo*, that Foochow bade their departing Commissioner of Customs, Mr. J. F. Olesen, farewell, for during his one year's administration he has won the hearts of the Foreigners and Chinese alike. A broad-minded, kind-hearted, genial man, his presence was welcome wherever he went, and his interest in the junior members of the Customs, made them his constant companions. Those transferred to Canton with him consider themselves exceedingly fortunate to continue under his management. In the morning the Viceroy and Chief Officials assembled at the Commissioner's residence to bid him farewell and welcome his successor, and in the evening his many friends saw him off at the Jetty, the Chinese honoring him with the usual cracker accompaniment. Sincere wishes, expressed with as sincere regrets at losing him, follow Mr. Olesen to Canton.

PEKING CANARDS.

(Daily Press, 10th May.)

Some days ago we published a Chinese telegram conveying the surprising information that at a meeting held at the United States Legation in Peking the Diplomatic Corps had decided to recommend the Powers concerned to accede to China's desire for an interruption of the Boxer indemnity payment for some years, by way of enabling her to put into execution the numerous projects of administrative reform to which she is pledged. The information with regard to international affairs which finds its way from time to time into the Chinese newspapers is notoriously unreliable, even though it may appear to emanate from official quarters; and so, notwithstanding that the terms of the particular announcement to which we are now referring were definite and precise enough to appear convincing, it seemed to us that excellent reasons existed, if not for frankly disbelieving the report, at least for hesitating to accept it until confirmation was forthcoming from the other side. We now know that the report had no foundation in fact, and must be regarded rather as a clumsy *ballon d'essai*. We can almost bring ourselves to believe that there exists in Peking some agency for disseminating as accomplished facts what are merely the pious aspirations of the Wai-wu-pu. The Chinese public had been previously prepared for the announcement with regard to the Boxer indemnity by the circulation of reports that since the United States had given practical proof of her sympathy with China by remitting the balance of the indemnity due to her, the Governments of Great Britain and Germany were not unwilling to follow the example of America to the extent at least of making substantial reductions in the amounts due to them. It is quite possible that H. E. TANG SHAO YI, who was sent as a Special Ambassador to the United States to return the thanks of the Chinese Government for America's generosity, and has since had a roving commission in Europe, has been sounding the Governments concerned on the subject, but we may well doubt whether his efforts in that direction have met with the smallest success. No sufficient reasons are apparent why the Governments should acquiesce in a proposal of the nature outlined. If the present resources of the Chinese Government are strained, it is a good argument for carrying out without further delay a thorough reform of her fiscal system. Considering the size and resources of the Chinese Empire, an obligation to pay to the Powers an indemnity of £67,500,000 in annual instalments spread over a period of forty years need not be as onerous as it is represented to be under the present chaotic financial administration. Moreover, looking at the suggestion from China's point of view, it is highly probable that the reforms she desires will come sooner under the strain of meeting these annual payments than if the Powers agreed to temporarily release China from her obligations. So far as Great Britain is concerned, it can hardly be said that of late China has given her much encouragement to show any prodigious generosity. Be that as it may, it seems to us that the most dignified attitude for China is to give up this forlorn hope, and courageously face the prospect of faithfully discharging her obligations. There is a valuable old proverb which declares that "where there's a will, there's a way." Given the will, all competent observers agree that a way may be found in China along lines of sound reform to provide the Government

with ample funds without adding materially, if at all, to the burden of the general body of taxpayers.

Not only on this Boxer Indemnity question has somebody been "flying kites" in Peking. Many times lately we have seen references to alleged negotiations with the British Minister with a view to secure the retrocession of Weihaiwei. There is no more truth in these reports than in the others to which we have alluded. We may also doubt the report that the President of the Waiwupu is negotiating with the British Minister for the opening of a Chinese Consulate in Hongkong. That is a very old aspiration and the Chinese Government must be well acquainted with the fact that it has been consistently opposed in the Colony. There is no need of a Chinese Consul here, where the interests of the native population are adequately looked after by the Protector of Chinese. Over thirty years ago the community almost unanimously objected to the establishment of a Chinese Consulate here on the ground that the power which a Consul would gain over the local Chinese population would constitute a veritable *imperium in imperio* and subject the native community to an intolerable system of official espionage and to the insatiable rapacity of a corrupt mandarindom. Time has done little to weaken these objections and it would be the height of folly to give any countenance whatever to the proposal which has now been revived.

THE LATE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

(Daily Press, May 11th.)

His Late Imperial Majesty of KWANG SU could scarcely have been the recipient of funeral honours more suitable to his life than those that have been accorded to him. Without losing in magnificence, extraneous ceremonies of late origin seem to have been rigorously tabooed, while in accordance with all the acts of his late Majesty, China has emphasised her intention of entering the comity of nations by inviting as honoured guests at the ceremonies, the Foreign Powers to send their special representatives. It is to the credit of the Regency that the whole of the pageant has been carefully organised, and without sacrificing anything of the essentially Chinese complexion of the state ceremonies, every care has been taken to conform in details with European etiquette. The result cannot but be gratifying to all concerned, Chinese as well as European, if for nothing more than that, the ceremonies have gone far to show that there is nothing so inconsistent between the two civilisations of the East and the West but that by judicious rounding of apparent discrepancies, the two may be found to perfectly blend. In the present instance there is in addition a strong common bond between the two. Whatever we may think of the momentary wisdom of the changes attempted by his late Imperial Majesty, no one has ever called in question the entire honesty of purpose which instigated them, nor the far-sightedness of the young monarch in recognising that without an entire change of method, China was doomed to extinction as an empire. This grasp of the political situation was all the more wonderful, that of set purpose the late EMPRESS DOWAGER had done her best by surrounding the young Emperor while yet a mere child with the vicious society of eunuchs, to extinguish any remaining spark of character. Nearly as bad had been the upbringing of his unfortunate predecessor TUNG CHI, but TUNG CHI on arriving at years of discretion had

commenced to show some of the hereditary genius of the founders of the Imperial line of T'UNG, and TSE HI was determined that at whatever cost the thing should not be repeated; so having got rid of TUNG CHI, every care was taken to emasculate, body and soul, the young sovereign. Bodily the trial seems to have been successful, and the unfortunate boy lived a life which can best be described as a living martyrdom. Mentally there was that within which all her efforts could not be altogether repressed, and, like his predecessor, the youthful monarch, on arriving at years of discretion felt the instinct of his race too strong for his feeble body. Unfortunately, the counsellors whom he called about him, though like himself patriotic and unselfish, were not men of sufficient mental grasp to tackle the difficulties of the case, and in an evil hour for himself and his country the young Emperor confided his hopes to YUAN SHI KAI. It is by no means clear that YUAN intentionally betrayed his master: He was probably sufficiently sagacious to see that with the tools he had selected the work of reform could not be carried to a successful issue; and stated his apprehensions to the DOWAGER REGENT. With a woman of TSE HI's character a hint was sufficient. She had never permitted any considerations of right or wrong to disturb her resolves however sanguinary, and the present attempt to reduce her authority to insignificance called for immediate action. The counsellors of the young Emperor who had advised her relegation to private life were barbarously exterminated, with but one exception who contrived to escape; and there is little doubt that it was her first intention that the Emperor should follow; but here even in her rage, she saw that some discretion was necessary. She had not a substitute emperor, in fact, at hand; there had been difficulty about the choice of TSAI TIEN, and the nation looked askance, as being of the same generation as TUNG CHI, he could not perform the correct ancestral sacrifices; and no one of the next generation was as yet available to put in his place. Besides, the Foreign Powers were looking on suspiciously and none knew better than TSE HI where the money supposed to be spent on the defences of the land had gone. Some had even hinted that the death of the Emperor might lead to the capture of Peking, and with the capture of Peking, the destruction of the Manchu line. The Emperor was spared his life indeed, but, except life, everything that could make life endurable was rigorously excluded, and the remainder of his life may best be described as a living death.

These facts, well known to all residents in Peking, though not officially recognised by the Legations, went far to add a human interest to the ceremony to which the various foreign Governments had sent their special representatives, and it was felt by all that though the young Emperor had really died a martyr for the country he loved so well; the work of reform was still only in the most embryo state, and that China needed all the countenance and assistance that her foreign friends could afford her. Whatever was the immediate cause of the death of the Emperor, regarding which owing to the strangeness of its surroundings many sinister rumours, none of them more than wild guesses, have been current, the broad fact remains that up to the moment of his death the late Emperor was practically a prisoner in his own palace, and the real moving spirit was the imperious lady, the Empress Dowager, who literally stood behind the Throne, and compelled him to

her will, has since his death become more than ever apparent. Unexpected has been the part devolving on the new Dowager, widow of the deceased Emperor. During the lifetime of the late Regent relegated to utter insignificance, the fact that she is now *in loco parentis* to the new Emperor during his years of childhood, has brought her to the front; and apparently disclosed the fact that she was not such an indifferent spectator of the sorrows of her husband as circumstances seemed to indicate. Although apparently anxious to keep herself aloof from all merely political acts, as aware from sad experience of the result in the case of the late Regent of a woman's interference in the higher realms of statescraft, she has been apparently doing useful service in the more domestic affairs of the household. She has unearthed the secret of the illegal hoard accumulated by the late Dowager, and if she had done no more would certainly have deserved well of the country; but she is doing more, for she is supplying in the case of the new monarch the want which was so conspicuously absent in the case of her own husband, and by looking personally after the education of the young child will doubtless be able to control if not effectually remove entirely the evil influence of the eunuchs about the Court which told so heavily in the case of her unfortunate husband.

The inner details of the life of an Oriental monarch seldom come to the light of day, but we are coming to learn enough of the life of the late Emperor to know that it constituted one of the strangest romances of history; and not the least strange part of it all has been the high sense of duty, which in spite of all the defects of his early education seems to have been the actuating motive of his life; but which under adverse circumstances, seems to have brought during life only grief and sorrow, not only to himself but to the country he loved so well. We see a reflection of the divers currents that beset him in life in the curious disagreement amongst the compilers who, according to Chinese practice, have been appointed to write the official story of his life. The strange events of his early career, but above all the circumstances attending the *coup d'état* of September 1898, have, we learn, proved a stumbling block in the way of the compilation; those engaged in the work taking such entirely opposed views of the surrounding circumstances that progress has hitherto been found impossible. The disagreement only affords another proof of the inadequacy of the sources of information available to the mere outsider in writing, an even plausible account of one of the strangest episodes in all history—the Regency of the Dowager Empress Tse Hsi.

THE BOYCOTT.

(Daily Press, May 12th.)

Anything written now about the boycott of Japanese shipping and commerce in South China will strike most of our readers as an excursion into history which is becoming ancient. No mention of the subject has been made of the matter in the Chinese Press for some time, but we learn from the Press of Japan that the movement is still "vigorous," and we must therefore suppose that a conspiracy of silence prevails in South China. Though all outward show of hostility is wanting, an Osaka paper tells its readers that the boycott is still secretly active and, in fact, increasing in its effectiveness all over China, but especially in Hongkong and Canton. While it may be true that shipments from Japan to South China show no improvement, and even

continue to decline, we do not think it necessarily follows that the Chinese feeling of hostility to Japan is as intense as it was six months ago. Appearances are certainly against the statement. Whatever the real explanation of the declining trade may be, so far as the Chinese in Hongkong are concerned it is certainly not due to a greater intensity of feeling against Japan. The injury done to Japanese trade by the boycott is more permanent than the feelings of hatred which inspired the movement, and an explanation of the continued decline in Japanese trade is to be sought rather in the diversion of trade which occurred when the boycott started, and the stimulus the movement gave to native enterprises. If the boycott led to the cultivation of new tastes and the acquisition of new habits—as must undoubtedly have been the case—it would be hopeless to anticipate that as soon as the boycott movement is suppressed the trade will revert to its former channels. The Chinese are as conservative in their business as in their social and political customs, and it is a generally recognised feature of business in China that when once a particular brand of goods has been established in popular favour, it takes a great deal of business push to induce purchasers to give their preference to the rival commodity. Shortly after the boycott started much was heard of the stimulus given to native enterprises and of the creation of new ones. How far these have developed as a result of the boycott, firms who are specially interested in the particular lines of trade affected are in the best position to judge, but there can be no doubt whatever that the stimulus given by the boycott to native industries, has materially affected the import, and and this combined with the diversion of many branches of trade into other channels, precludes the hope that a complete restoration of amicable relations between Chinese and Japanese traders will be followed by the return of the full tide of business prosperity which the Japanese merchants enjoyed before the unfortunate contretemps occurred. We do not go so far as to say that the feeling of hostility to the Japanese in South China has completely died out. It is only too plain to everyone that there are in Canton plenty of people only too eager to fan into flame the dying embers of the strife; and the Pratas Island incident has served their purpose well; but we do not think the suggestion can be substantiated that the Chinese throughout the country are still deliberately intent on the destruction of Japanese trade in a spirit of revenge. An Osaka journal makes an appeal to the Tokyo Foreign Office to institute an immediate investigation into the matter. We do not doubt that the Foreign Office in Tokyo is kept well informed of the situation, but it is difficult to see what action they can take in the circumstances. We note, by the way, that at the request of the Foreign Office the Toyo Kisen Kaisha has recently submitted a statement in which the losses the Company has suffered from the boycott movement are estimated as being, for twelve months, Yen 543,200 in passenger traffic, and Yen 156,800 in goods freight—altogether in round figures Yen 700,000. From the statement of this one company we may form some idea of the prodigious losses entailed by the boycott on the shipping and commerce of Japan as a whole. Movements of this nature, which of late years the Chinese have shown themselves increasingly prone to adopt cannot therefore be lightly regarded. It is war—disastrous war—waged with kidgloves.

MANCHU-CHINESE MARRIAGES.

(Daily Press, May 13th.)

The hope was entertained that the order which was issued by the late Dowager Empress to the effect that in future there could be marriages between the Manchu families and Chinese would put an end to, or at least largely lessen, the caste distinction between the Manchus and the Chinese, which has done so much harm, and has undoubtedly stood more in the way of progress than almost anything else. This hope, however, like many that are formed with regard to China, seems destined to disappointment. According to those most conversant with what is going on at the Capital, there is as much Court intrigue there as ever, and it is to be feared that this unfortunate kind of influence may do much to hinder the reforms which have been promised. Already the date at which a Constitution was promised to be granted, has been made indefinite, and there are other signs which go to show that, even at this day, the old plan of making specious promises, and then proceeding to shuffle out of them has by no means been abandoned. We were no doubt assured that the retirement of YUAN-SHI-KAI did not indicate any alteration in the policy which the Peking authorities intended to follow. This statement may be true, but in a different sense to that in which it is intended to be accepted. The policy that is being followed is most likely one which is bound to involve the retirement of YUAN-SHI-KAI or of anyone else who might entertain the same liberal views that he has expressed. The intention of the Peking Government may be to introduce reform; but it is to be feared they wish to do this so slowly, that practically the action taken will leave things very little changed, and that in essentials, reform will be avoided altogether. In short, there is too much reason to fear the old shuffling conduct, which has wrought so much harm in China on other occasions—a kind of MICAWBER policy, with promises of doing great things but an inner hope that "something will turn up" to prevent its being necessary to carry the promises out, is being reverted to. In many instances, fortune has served the Government very well and the "something" actually has turned up and been very skilfully availed of; but it will hardly do to rely upon the chance of events in so important a matter as the movement for reform which has so long been occupying the mind of the Chinese people, and which has been unquestionably encouraged by promises at head quarters.

How the change at Peking which has become noticeable has been brought about, it is of course impossible to say, as even those who know something of the inner workings at the capital can hardly speak with certainty on such a point. In part, no doubt, it is attributable to not unnatural jealousy of YUAN-SHI-KAI's rising influence. There is no country in the world where there is more jealousy at head quarters of any power which threatens to become a marked political factor, than China. The history of any Chinese statesman, who has loomed large in the affairs of the country, shows this. Such a man is considered to require to have his wings clipped, and the usual plan resorted to is to raise him to a prominent position, and before long, on some pretext, suddenly abandon him. This kind of promotion downwards it is fair to remember, is not necessarily final. He may be taken up again; but generally his power is curtailed, and the end desired, that of weakening what is feared may be.

come a dangerous rival, is attained. There may not have been more than this in what has occurred but, even so, it is significant, and combined with other incidents, it is not encouraging to those who had hoped that the Peking authorities were really in earnest in their professions of a willingness to inaugurate necessary reform. The central Government have committed themselves so far in the direction of reform that it will certainly cause great disappointment throughout China if they do not in some way act up to the promises held out. They stand pledged to something, after the assurances that have been given, and nothing could be more ill-advised than to go back completely on their promises once they have been made, at a time when the feeling that reform is necessary is so general, as it has of late become in China. It can hardly be believed that the most reactionary of Chinese officials will counsel such a step. But there is still room to fear that the same result might be attained by first delay and ultimately by minimising what is done; and it would seem that the idea at Peking is to meet the difficulty by temporising somewhat of this nature. No one of course can blame the Chinese for being careful how they attempt to introduce searching reforms, but it will be a grave mistake on their part to simmer down the promises held forth almost to the vanishing point. If such a policy is to be adopted, it would have been far wiser to have held out no prospects whatever. In that case, there might have been discontent, but at least those who were discontented, could not point to a specific grievance, which they will be able to do if the promise of reform, having been once made, little or nothing is done to carry it out. The course which it would seem should commend itself to those in authority at Peking would be to introduce at least some definite reforms tending in the direction to which they are pledged, if they cannot see the way to grant all that has been promised. Chinese statesmanship would be quite equal to this task, if only the authorities should be well enough advised to recognise that it is the course which both prudence and good faith dictate as that which should be pursued after the solemn assurances which have been given by them.

MALARIA IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, May 14th.)

The information given to the Sanitary Board on Tuesday last by Colonel BEDFORD, the Principal Medical Officer of the Garrison, with regard to the prevalence of Malaria amongst His Majesty's troops quartered at Lyemun was startling enough to elicit immediate public sympathy which is the necessary prelude to public action with a view to modifying the existing state of affairs. Colonel BEDFORD informed the Board that whereas the admissions to hospital for malarial fever from the whole garrison for the first four months of the year gave a ratio of 25 per thousand, that for the small garrison at Lyemun gave a ratio of 445 per thousand. To further establish the fact that malaria is abnormally prevalent in the neighbourhood of Lyemun, Colonel BEDFORD referred to the latest published returns (1907) showing the distribution of the disease amongst the police. While the admissions to hospital for malaria were in the ratio of 94 per thousand among the men quartered at the central police station, the admissions from the Shaukiwan police station gave the enormous ratio of 838 per thousand. That is fairly conclusive evidence of the existence of disease-breeding conditions in that neighbourhood which stand in urgent need of improvement.

As the P.M.O. of the Garrison observed, malaria cannot be fought without the expenditure of money, and we think we can anticipate the report of the Committee of Inquiry to the extent of saying that to rid the neighbourhood of Shaukiwan of the conditions which conduce to the breeding of the anopheles mosquito will run into a considerable demand on the Colony's exchequer. As showing the cost of these anti-malarial measures we may note that a couple of years ago a sum of \$13,456 was spent on training nullahs in the Tai Hang valley, which is extensively used by the washermen of Victoria for clothes washing operations. For the past ten years the Government has made provision in the Estimates for anti-malarial measures, and the last Estimate shows that down to the end of 1908 a total sum of \$107,500 had been expended on the training of nullahs in various parts of the Colony. The estimated expenditure on this work in the current year is \$20,000, which may be taken as representing the average annual cost of this work in recent years—an expenditure which is amply justified by the gratifying decline of malarial disease *par passu* with the progress of this work. The average annual number of deaths from Malaria in the Colony for the quinquennium 1898-1902 was 526; and in the following five years the average yearly number fell to 386, although there was a large increase in the population during that period. The medical reports leave us in no doubt that the disease is most prevalent in the villages of Hongkong. It is shown in the returns for 1907 (the latest published) that there were 138 deaths from Malaria in the City of Victoria; 191 for the whole of Kowloon, and 203 in the villages. But the Government, quite rightly, commenced their campaign in the neighbourhood of the largest centres of population. Gradually the Public Works Department has carried the war against the mosquito east and west of the city, and no doubt in the natural order of progress the district of Shaukiwan would receive due attention. Now that Colonel BEDFORD has called public attention to the serious character of the medical statistics of the small Garrison at Lyemun attention will doubtless be given by the Public Works Department to this district earlier than might otherwise perhaps have been the case. When we look at the police return to which Colonel BEDFORD in his speech referred, we observe that there is one district in the Colony with an even worse showing than Shaukiwan. That is Tsat-Tse-Mui where the percentage of Malarial cases from the police station worked out at 114.2 against Shaukiwan's 88.8.

The value of the statistical information on the subject prepared annually by the medical department is plainly apparent, and while it is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the exigencies of the financial position no reduction in the appropriation for anti-malarial measures was made this year, the plea made by Colonel BEDFORD will, perhaps, suggest to the Government the desirability of making every effort to enlarge this vote until the improvement which has been effected in the central districts of the Colony has been extended to all the outlying places where considerable populations reside.

The writer of "Bits of China" in the *Westminster Gazette* notes the curious provision on the occasion of the conveyance of the late Emperor's coffin to the temporary resting place of "two foreign pumps of the best quality," for the use of the troops charged with keeping the roads clear of crowds.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Local sport is not so conspicuous in the columns of the newspapers these days. Tennis is practically the only game that attracts any attention at present, with the exception perhaps of lawn bowls. The new league will soon be getting to business, and if it does as much to improve tennis as the football league did for that game, the promoters will have every reason to feel satisfied. I understand the Kowloon Cricket Club has received the promise of a trophy to be offered for an open championship competition. That is decidedly good but when are the ladies to be catered for? There are quite a number of first-rate lady players in the colony and it would certainly be interesting to note their prowess with the racquet.

Speaking of leagues, reminds me of a suggestion that a similar competition might be got up among the local bowling-clubs. Kowloon Bowling Club is the oldest organisation, and since it was formed some eight or nine years ago a number of clubs have sprung into existence. The Civil Service players were the next to take up the game, then the Police followed suit, and shortly afterwards the green at Cosmopolitan Dock was opened. Since then the Taikoo Club has been formed, and other sporting associations have shown an interest in the game. With four or five bowling associations in the colony, it should not be difficult to form a league which would give a great impetus to the game. Perhaps the Kowloon Club as the oldest might take the lead in calling a meeting, or the Police, as being perhaps the most enthusiastic, might do so. The matter should not be allowed to drop.

What a time the ladies had on Wednesday at the garden fête! Not for a long time have they had such an opportunity of playing at work and, incidentally, showing themselves to advantage. I think the dear things are most fascinating when dispensing tea and showering little attentions on the men folks, and I am sure the ladies themselves are not devoid of that knowledge. One could not help noticing that the married ladies simply carried all before them, metaphorically speaking at the fête. They knew how to tackle the gentlemen, and while the single ladies stood by overcome by maidenly modesty and wondering what to do, the married ladies had rushed in and done it.

I heard it said that on this occasion some mere men who sat down to tea found the force of habit too strong for them, as they yelled out "boy" when they wanted more. Of course explanations followed.

"Where the ladies are, there the men will be, also," is not a bad description of the principal attraction at most bazaars. I say principal attraction deliberately, because whether we are married or not, most of us I think can say with Robert Burns:

"The happiest oors that eer I spent
Were spent among the lasses, oh!"

Humour sits in high places nowadays. Here's the Chief Justice joking in court when admitting a barrister to practise and expressing the hope that there would be "no moaning at the bar." No doubt some decisions are bound to give pain to the gentlemen interested, but whether they will express themselves by "moaning at the bar" is not for me to say. Probably his Lordship knows there is another bar where the moaning is less frequent, and where the argument is usually of a more interesting nature. At that bar crystal, not golden, bridges are used.

Competition flourishes in Hongkong. "A fair field and no favour" is our motto, to which we add "let the best man win." These thoughts are suggested by a nice little local war. It is not the ice war, though this one is suggestive of coolth, but it is a struggle over the sale of fans. It will be remembered that during the Ward Company's occupancy of the City Hall fans were sold to patrons at ten cents each. Then a keen-eyed rival came on the scene with fans at five cents each. He held undisputed sway for some little time until he saw at the theatre the other night boys selling fans other than his, and his ire was roused. The rival competitors were

swept out of the theatre and the autocrat leaned back in his seat well pleased with the result of his great enterprise. But his triumph was short lived. The following night his boys were shadowed by other boys giving fans *gratis*, and as this was continued it was not surprising that the sale for fans dropped to an infinitesimal degree and the growing monopoly met the fate of wheat corners in America. One might reflect on this incident, but to reflect would be to reflect, so I won't.

My Sunday reading covered two appropriate subjects. One was a strong plea to the clergy by the Bishop of Liverpool for the natural use of the voice in public worship. He described Erasmus as the spokesman of a large number of devout Church people when he said that he was tired of the droning of ecclesiastical services. For the moment I felt myself in hearty agreement with Erasmus and the Bishop of Liverpool on the subject. A moment later I happened to be glancing at a dissertation on physical culture, wherein it was stated that "there is no more healthful occupation than yawning." I reflected that nowhere more than in the churches do we see people indulging in this "healthy occupation" and dark doubts arose in my mind as to whether it were wise, in the interest of the human race, to banish the droning parson from the pulpit. The printer's devil will not grant me time enough to decide this interesting question, so I must pass it on to my readers.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

Two United States gunboats are under repair at the Taikoo Dock.

The Imperial Brewery is advertised for sale by auction, Mr. Lammert being the auctioneer.

Mr. Valentine Chirol, the Foreign Editor of the *Times*, is a passenger by the P. and O. *Oceana* which arrived on May 12. Mr. Chirol is booked to Yokohama.

The number of cases tried at the Magistracy during last year was 10,555 as compared with 13,414 in 1907, and the revenue was \$68,696.43 as compared with \$67,133.26 in 1907.

A very interesting case occupied the attention of the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court this week when the Governor's right to figure as plaintiff in an action was contested.

The steamer *Laertes*, which arrived from Saigon on May 12, brought 103 deportees from the French Possession. They will be forwarded on to China as soon as arrangements can be made.

At the Magistracy on May 10 Mr. F. A. Hazeland fined a native \$50, with the alternative of two months' hard labour, for trespassing on the bomb proof ground of the Army Ordnance Department.

Among the large number of residents who left for Home by the *Monteagle* on Tuesday were Lady Piggott, and the Rev J. H. and Mrs. France.

Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford K.C.B. retiring Governor of Western Australia accompanied by Lady Bedford and Miss Bedford have been guests of H.E. the Governor this week. Admiral and Lady Bedford went on by the French Mail steamer to Japan.

The Treasury was enriched on Tuesday to the extent of \$310 through Chinese merchants neglecting to stamp receipts. Sixteen summonses for this offence were heard by Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Tuesday and fines ranging from \$5 to \$25 were imposed on the offenders.

The *Gazette* publishes a financial statement by the Colonial Treasurer for the month of February 1909. It shows that the Colony's balance of assets and liabilities on January 31st of the same year was \$26,227.86, and that the revenue from 1st to 28th February was \$455,598.70, making a total credit of \$661,826.56. Against this there was an expenditure for the month of February of \$348,758.28, leaving a credit balance of \$313,068.28. The total liabilities of the Colony on February 28th amounted to \$370,718.30, while the assets at the same date totalled \$683,786.58. The balance of assets (General Account) now stands at \$1,405,974.50.

The Superintendent of the Berlin Foundling House, West Point, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of \$42.25 from the Kowloon Dock A.D.C., being part of the proceeds of the production of "The Silver King."

An extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of April shows that the average maximum temperature was 75.8 degrees, the minimum being 67.4 degrees. The rainfall for the month totalled 2.455 inches, and we had 155.4 hours of sunshine.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Dr. J. Bell to act as Principal Civil Medical Officer during the absence on leave of the Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, or until further notice. He has also been pleased to appoint, provisionally and subject to His Majesty's pleasure, the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin to be a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Joslin, second officer of the China and Manila s.s. Co.'s steamer *Zafiro*, who commanded the *Saiuan* when she was pirated on the West River, succumbed on Monday night at the Government Civil Hospital to heat apoplexy. As a mark of respect the flags of the s.s. *Rubi* of the same line, were flying at halfmast on Tuesday when the funeral took place.

A story of barbaric cruelty was told to Mr. Hazeland. Because a little girl of seven years wept and trembled with fear when told to go to a doctor, the man who was taking her took her home again. There the cruel mother belaboured her with a bamboo pole over head and body until she was one mass of bruises and weals. His Worship bound the defendant over in the sum of \$100 to keep the peace for six months.

Ali Mahomed, while under the influence of liquor, went into an opium divan in Cheung Hing Street and proceeded to break the furniture. When called upon by the proprietor to desist he assaulted him, the result being that he was arrested and charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Thursday. After hearing the evidence his Worship recorded a conviction and fined the defendant \$2 on a charge of damaging property and \$2 on a charge of assault. He further ordered him to pay seventy cents compensation.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp two natives were charged with stealing a case of umbrellas from a godown at Kowloon. The first defendant, who was tallying for Messrs Gilman and Co., after taking delivery of some 50 or 60 cases told the godown tallyman that he was one short, but that he would not require it just then. Then the goods were shipped on the second defendant's lighter, and brought to Hongkong. All were landed with the exception of a case of umbrellas, which was opened aboard. The boatman was given six of these and the first defendant took the remainder ashore and sold them, handing the boatman \$30 as his share of the plunder. His Worship on hearing the evidence found the defendants guilty, and sentenced the first to six months' imprisonment and four hours' stocks, and the second to two months' imprisonment.

After three years a ricscha coolie who is supposed to be one of a gang who assaulted and robbed Captain J. T. Laing of the river steamer *Tai Sang* has been arrested. He appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on May 12 on the charge of, with four others not in custody, robbing the complainant of a bank book, and of a leather pocket book containing \$200 in bank notes, and of using personal violence. The story previously told by Captain Laing was that while waiting at one of the West Point wharves between two and three o'clock in the morning he was attacked by several ricscha coolies, knocked down, and relieved of his valuables. The coolies got away with the booty, but one of the men left the cushion of his ricscha behind, and this bore the same number as the ricscha. The Captain took the article to the Police Station, but next morning the puller of the cushionless ricscha was missing. He had left the Colony, and it is only within the last few days that he has returned. He was arrested when applying for a new ricscha licence at West Point. His Worship adjourned the hearing until the arrival of the complainant.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on May 14 in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

H. E. COLONEL DARLING, R.E. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Sir HENRY BERKELEY, K.C., (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY, (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, K.C., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPEERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of H.E. the Governor laid on the table the following papers: Financial statement for the year 1908, Report of the Police Magistrate's Court for the year 1908, Report of Queen's College for the year 1908, Report of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, British Section.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 13 to 17 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption. In doing so he said—In connection with this report I have to inform your Excellency that on the vote for compensation for 26 opium divans closed this year being brought before the committee, one official member and two unofficial members raised the question as to whether this compensation would be paid by the Imperial Government. I explained that His Majesty's Government had promised to pay a portion, at any rate, of such loss as may be incurred in the letting of the Opium Farm from 1 March next, but that such loss did not include losses incurred during the current year owing to the closing of opium divans. The committee, Sir, did not oppose the vote, which was passed.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, in connection with what the hon. Colonial Secretary has just said regarding the criticism which was made at the last finance meeting on the vote for \$11,000 odd compensation to divan licensees, I would remind you that on the 11th March last I read to the Council the words in the despatch of the Secretary of State which referred to this subject, and which you will find on page 9 of *Hansard*. The Imperial Government deferred closing the whole of the divans at once, as they had originally announced their intention of doing, and they promised that they would proceed gradually with the policy which His Majesty's Government had decided to adopt. They also agreed to pay a substantial part of any loss which might occur in this Colony through the carrying out of that policy. But they made this condition: that whatever compensation may be found to be equitably due to the holders of these licenses will be provided from Colonial funds; that is to say, the licensees who would no longer have a renewal of their licences during the current year. It was part of the arrangement that was made with the Imperial Government under which we were to receive a substantial part of any loss which might occur in this Colony; and secondly that we should retain the bulk of the divans for the current year until the farm contract should expire on 31st March next. We cannot repudiate our part of the pledge, and yet claim the fulfilment of the promise made by the Imperial Government; the two things hold together.

And His Majesty's Government describe the obligation which we undertook to pay the licensees, together with the decrease in the number of chests which the farmer should be allowed to prawn, as an earnest of our co-operation in the policy of His Majesty's Government. When I made the announcement in the Council of the decision arrived at by the Imperial Government it was received with applause by hon. members, and I think that in view of the consistent attitude which His Majesty's Government has adopted with regard to this question, and in view of the large sacrifices made in India and other Colonies, that we have no ground of complaint, especially as no undue burden is laid upon the Colony by the adoption of this policy. I would remind you all that the Colony of Hongkong has repeatedly declared itself ready and anxious to support the Imperial Policy. An honourable and learned member of the Council, who is not here I am sorry to say, to-day, remarked in the debate last May, or, at any rate, he inferred that provided His Majesty's Government adopted the policy *pari passu* with China, he was in favour of supporting it. The senior unofficial member, speaking in the name of the Chinese, went even further, and advocated the abolition of all divans in the Colony. The Chamber of Commerce, which is represented by an hon. member who is not here this afternoon, drew up a resolution which I was asked to forward to the Secretary of State, to the effect that while deprecating any sudden and drastic measures, they would loyally support a policy of gradual reduction. I trust, gentlemen, this explanation is sufficient, and that the Council will not desire it should be understood by His Majesty's Government that we repudiate the views which have been recorded in this Council, and of which the Secretary of State has been informed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The honourable and learned member who is absent from Council to-day [the Hon. Mr. Pollock] asked on March 11th whether the Government could make any arrangements for signalling typhoons by Wireless Telegraphy from the Pratas Islands, and whether the Government had any information to communicate on this subject. In reply the Hon. Colonial Secretary informed the Hon. Member that if he would repeat his question in three or four weeks' time I hoped to be able to reply more fully. The Hon. Member has not formally repeated his question, but I take it hon. members desire the information. The reason why this Government is unable to take any steps—putting aside the question of cost—to erect a Wireless Station on the Pratas Atoll is because the islands are claimed by China. I have, however, acquainted the Chinese Government through the British Minister at Peking with the importance which would attach to a Typhoon Signal Station on the island, not merely to Hongkong but to the Southern Coasts of China.

WORKMEN'S CARS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution:—"Resolved that the Resolution regarding the running of Workmen's Cars by the Hongkong Tramway Electric Company, Limited, now known as the Electric Traction Company of Hongkong, Limited, passed by the Legislative Council on the 21st day of June 1906 be and the same is hereby rescinded."

In doing so he said:—In that resolution, Sir, provision was made for the running of certain workmen's cars in the early morning. These cars, Sir, have been found not to be patronised by the class for whom they were intended, and accordingly it has been suggested that a system of punch tickets at a rate of two cents a ride should be afforded to workmen and others between the hours of 5.30 to 7.30 in the morning and 4.30 to 6.30 in the afternoon. It is hoped, Sir, that these punch tickets will be availed of to a larger extent than were the cars. The Government at the same time reserves the right, if the punch tickets are not a success, to revert to the workmen's car system.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—Sir, I am not opposing the resolution, but I want to know whether the arrangement which the Hon. Colonial Secretary has told us of the institution of punch tickets, is

on record; and if so, whether it is binding on the Company. Otherwise, if we pass this resolution this Company may make variations with regard to the punch tickets, and where are we? I desire to know whether it is on record, and whether it is binding on the Company. If it is binding, I will be one to support it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The arrangement is on record in writing. Of course if the Company went back on the arrangement, the remedy would be to re-impose the workmen's cars, but I think there is no danger of that. The Company desire to give this the fairest chance.

The resolution was agreed to.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, before proceeding to the business of the day, I have to make a statement regarding the progress of the railway. There is, amongst the papers laid on the table this afternoon, first a report by the chief resident engineer, and in connection with that report you will no doubt notice that the various departmental reports which have been laid on the table this afternoon are not in the usual form. They do not bear the heading "Laid before the Legislative Council" but are headed "Appendix" with a letter of the alphabet. The reason of that slight alteration is that we propose in future to somewhat condense these departmental reports and publish them as a small volume, which will be laid as one document before the Council. But in order not to further delay these reports, such as are already printed have been laid this afternoon. On February 6th last I made a statement to the Council as to the progress and the financial position of the Canton-Kowloon railway. And again, when introducing the estimates on 24th September last, I reported such progress as had taken place in the interval, and I promised that I would make an annual report to the Council, both as regards finances and the progress of the railway—the liability which we are incurring in respect of it; and the ways in which these liabilities are being met. I much regret the delay in presenting this annual report and laying this statement. I had hoped it would be ready at one of the earlier meetings of the year. We have no resolution this year before Council for votes for the construction of the railway during the year because, under the new financial instructions, which have been lately received from the Colonial Office, the requisite funds for the construction during the year are included in the annual estimates. I propose, however, to follow the course I did last year, and to give you as full a statement of events connected with the railway as I can, and I will endeavour to make as clear as possible the situation both as regards expenditure and the prospects both as regards time and date of completion. And I hope that I shall be able to amplify the report of the chief resident engineer, and draw your attention to the significance of the figures. I will deal first with the expenditure, and I am sorry to say it is not an exhilarating subject. We first of all had an estimate by Mr. Bruce which amounted to \$5,053,274. That estimate as I explained in my former statement, was a very rough one. It was based on a very rough preliminary survey and included no calculation of quantities and many important items such as rolling stock, workshops, etc. It was accepted as a rough estimate by my predecessor when the railway first began. The first full estimate that we had from the chief resident engineer, appointed by the consulting engineers, was in June 1907. That amounted to \$8,003,642. It did not include any provision for rolling stock or for workshops, because at that time it was impossible to know exactly what rolling stock would be required, and whether or not we should require any workshops. At the end of the same year, December 1907, a further estimate was submitted to the Council, which amounted to \$9,860,283. Provision for rolling stock was inserted, and that estimate also includes the cost of the resumption of the deep sea wharf in the neighbourhood of Blackhead's Point, but it still did not include any provision for workshops as the subject was still under discussion. The provision made in that estimate for land was also somewhat vague. No final decision had been taken as regards the site for the terminal station. The estimate which is included in the papers laid this afternoon, amounts, as you will

see, to \$11,004,128. This includes workshops and all items, but it is still possible that the land resumption may not be fully adequately provided for, as all matters in connection with that subject are not yet finally concluded. The excesses of this estimate over the one which was laid before the Council in December last amount to \$1,143,845, but if you turn to column E. on page 10 of the report, in which the figures in italics represent savings, you will see that of this total sum \$996,409 represented the cost of the tunnels. \$120,000 of this excess is provided for workshops, and there remains a balance of \$27,436 which is distributed over various items. But you will see also in the later estimates that there is a great variation of the figures from those contained in the estimate of last year. There is a saving of \$82,400 for rolling stock, and \$51,700 in ballast and permanent way, making a total of \$134,000 saving on these two items. This is met by an excess of \$90,000 on salaries and \$43,000 on accounts, making \$133,000. Bridges show an excess of \$47,261; half of that is met by savings on various items, and the other half goes to complete the total excess in the estimate of \$1,443,000. These large over and under estimates are most unsatisfactory, and they show that the figures which have been supplied have not been reliable. But at the same time I would remind you that the mere question of estimates does not mean a reflection on British engineering. It is due partly to the fact that we are engaged in constructing a tunnel such as has not been undertaken in this part of the world before, and under which the conditions both as regards labour and as regards explosives were extremely difficult to foresee. The variations also under the estimates are in part due to the fact that all the data of the railway were not known, and indeed are not known fully yet. Even had the railway been in the hands of contractors there would have been many items excluded, for which supplementary estimates would have been required. Nevertheless, we have this fact: that this tunnel will cost nearly a million more than the estimate given to us at the end of last year, and that in spite of the fact that the engineers had acquired already a year's experience in dealing with the conditions under which the tunnel had to be constructed. During the year that is passed, the quality of the labour has greatly improved. The coolies have become more efficient, and understand the work better. We have been able to engage a number of coolies returned from South Africa who have been trained miners, and have been a great acquisition to work in the tunnels. There has been less sickness and fever. The tunnel has been found to be approximately 44 feet less in length than it had been anticipated, owing to an error in the original triangulation. These causes have reduced the cost per foot in a very remarkable degree. You will see on page 2 a very striking statement in this connection. The heading cost per foot in 1907 \$184, which has been reduced to \$70.04. The enlarging in 1907 cost \$275, which has been reduced to \$140.86; the bricking-in was \$221 and has been reduced to \$113.54. Now, if it were not for these very large reductions per lineal foot the excesses would have been something I dread to calculate. Obviously it is beyond my personal control whether or not the estimate formed by the engineers is adequate. The staff which has been employed has been reduced wherever it has been possible to do so without detriment to the efficiency of the work. The medical arrangements, which are practically carried out by Government, have increased in efficiency. Everything, in fact, that the Government has been able to do has been done. The cost of the tunnel—I speak of the big tunnel only; you will of course recollect that sum includes the smaller one as well as the large one—is estimated as you will see in the report, at \$3,000,000. Its length is 7,212 feet, which works out at \$416 per foot; that is to say \$2,196,342 a mile, or in round figures about £200,000 a mile. If we add to that, the cost of the permanent way and the share for the tunnel's length and the general charges of the railway, you will see that the cost of this tunnel is not less than one-third of the total cost of the railway. As regards the special difficulties which have been met with, and which are held accountable for

this large increase, I refer you to the report, in which you will see what the chief resident engineer has to say on the subject. The excess over the estimate in December 1907 is in part due to the fact that we are completely lining the tunnel throughout. It had been hoped that in certain sections where the rock is exceedingly hard lining might have been dispensed with, but on Mr. A. J. Barry's late visit it was decided to line it throughout, but with a reduced number of rings of brickwork in those sections that were hard. Because the stratum was full of faults it was feared that the vibration of the train would bring the rock down on top of passing trains. Of the other tunnels the only one which has given any difficulty, and on which any extra cost has been incurred is the Taipo tunnel, where heavy landslips were experienced owing to the slushy clay which formed the hillside. This necessitated very elaborate timbering at great cost. Its length is 924 feet, of which 573 feet had been driven, and 158½ feet lined on 31st December last. The other excesses to which I specially alluded, \$90,000 salaries, \$43,000, for accounts, include the cost of the salary for a portion of the year of an expert whom we hope to obtain from India to organise the work of opening the line and advise us on several subjects, including negotiations of the joint working agreement with the Canton section. The loss on exchange is largely responsible for the excess in these two items. Prior to 1908 no staff had been provided for accounting. Such accounting work as had required to be done had been done by the chief resident engineer and his staff. The third excess, of which I spoke, \$47,261 for bridges, arises in part from the increased size of Gascoigne Road bridge, which is due to the fact that it crosses the junction of two roads instead of crossing one of them at right angles. This matter was settled by my predecessor shortly before he left. The increased cost is not shown in the 1907 estimates, because it was not at that time known what the cost of the iron work in England would be. The cost of the construction of this bridge has been let to contract to Messrs. Leigh and Orange as part of the agreement to which I will shortly allude. Under this head of bridges also, a final decision has been taken regarding the bridge over the Taipo river, which has been a subject of much discussion, and it was finally settled by Mr. Barry. The situation in which it has been placed involves well foundations in the Taipo river, at considerably more cost than had been anticipated by its former location. Samchun bridge is also costing something more than anticipated originally. It has been raised higher, owing to information which we received from the engineer of the Chinese section as regards flood levels in the Samchun valley, and it has also been made with double girders for a double line. Council will desire to know whether I have any information to add to my reply of 5 September last to a question asked me by the member who then represented the Chamber of Commerce in this Council as regards certain defective bridges. I said in reply that I had directed that an examination of the bridges in question should be held by the Director of Public Works and Mr. Williams, the engineer of the Naval Docks. Their report, together with the comments of the chief resident engineer was forwarded to the consulting engineers and so far I have had no reply from them. The result was that Mr. A. J. Barry who already contemplated a visit to the Far East, was directed to inspect the Kowloon-Canton Railway on behalf of Messrs. Wolfe, Barry and Co., and to report to them. His report has no doubt by this time reached them, and I await their authoritative letter before I can make any official statement to Council. But I am aware of the conclusions at which he arrived. Briefly, I can say he agreed with the eminent engineers who reported to me on that question; that he adversely criticised the principles on which one or more of the bridges had been constructed. The matter is a highly technical one, and according to the memorandum issued by the Colonial Office, technical responsibility for work undertaken by the consulting engineers rests upon them. Direct intervention by the Colonial Government is only justified in case of urgent necessity. If the Government believes the

quality of the work to be unsatisfactory it will be beneficial for it to intervene. In my judgment such an occasion had arisen. Under the system upon which this railway is being constructed the consulting engineers are responsible for the conception, and execution of the design in accordance with the intentions of the Government, and further responsible that the estimates are adhered to. The chief resident engineer is the nominee of the consulting engineers. He is responsible to them for the technical conduct of the work. I do not disguise from you that I have a misgiving that there will be some addition to the estimates before us in consequence of these defective bridges, but I trust and hope, with good cause, that the addition will not be a large one. You will see for yourselves what the chief resident engineer says on the subject in his report on page 4. I have dealt in considerable detail now with the items that involve excesses in the estimates. There remains those items under which large savings are shown. Ballast and permanent way show an estimated saving of \$51,700; rolling stock, \$82,400. As regards the former you will find on page 5 a full explanation of the over-estimate by the chief resident engineer, to which I have nothing to add. As regards the over-estimate of the rolling stock, it is partly due to a decrease in home prices, and partly to the fact that less rolling stock than anticipated has been ordered. On Mr. Barry's advice the original order was somewhat reduced. The rolling stock is calculated to last till the end of 1911, but the resident engineer informs me that when the line is opened it will be insufficient, and will have to be augmented. We cannot, however, say exactly what quantity of rolling stock we shall require until the working agreement has been negotiated with the Chinese. I may add too, that the carriages will cost something less than half what had been estimated, for the amount placed on the estimates had been calculated on the basis of carriages for the Shanghai railway, and we find by adopting a less expensive model we can reduce the cost from about \$2,000 per carriage to \$1,900. As regards earthwork, under the estimate at the end of 1907 the chief resident engineer already anticipated a saving of over \$140,504 on the estimate made in the previous June. Out of this saving, \$35,000 will be allocated to a reduction of the bank in the big cutting at the head of Hunghom Bay. This cutting is about 210 feet deep, and the engineers consider that looking to the very pliable nature of the ground it is unsafe to allow the slip to stand without some further precautions to avoid landslips which may block the line for a period of several months. \$110,000 is devoted to the prolongation of the sea wall from the storm water drain to Blackhead's Point. This had long been decided upon but was not included in the December estimates because no definite decision had been arrived at as to its exact location. It had originally been intended to make the wall in straight line to Blackhead's but it was set back in order to effect a substantial saving by constructing the wall in shallower water. \$40,000 are also required, which I hope will be met from the saving in earthwork, for cutting off the corner on Signal Hill in order that the railway might obtain a proper curve in approaching Kowloon Station. I turn now to the more pleasant task of reporting the progress which has been made upon the railway during the past year. I think we can describe it as satisfactory on the whole with the exception perhaps of the big cutting at Hunghom and the reclamation for the station yard which are let to contract to Messrs. Leigh and Orange. As there was a prospect that the time for this would be much exceeded we entered into negotiations with them in order to obtain the use of what is called the "overland route" construction line which they have made and also in obtaining access to certain areas under reclamation in advance of the completion of the contract. By obtaining running powers over the construction line we shall facilitate the opening of the railway at a very much earlier date than would otherwise have been possible. In return we have allowed them twelve months' extension of the time for the big cutting which, as I have said, will not delay the opening of the railway. It will be opened over the overland route and they have

consented that the penalties for exceeding the contract time shall be trebled. We have also given them two new contracts at rates which will be remunerative to them, viz. the Gascoigne Road bridge and the other in the neighbourhood of Yaumati Station. It will be possible to open the line before the big reclamations are completed. The tunnel progress has been good. On 31st December 1907 3,100 feet had been driven and 465 feet had been lined, and on 31st December last 5,644 feet had been driven and 2,730 lined. The progress in 1907 was 40.27 feet per week. Last year it was 68.15, an increase of some 60 per cent. in spite of the fact that during the great part of 1907 we were working on four faces whereas in 1908 we were only working on two. I have already told you how greatly the cost per foot has been decreased and how the progress has been much more rapid. We hope the headings will meet within the next two or three days. For this work very great credit is due to Mr. Waite, the tunnel superintendent. We hope the tunnel will be lined and finished by the end of the year and that the permanent way will be laid and the line opened over the "overland route" by May 1910. We found it advisable to have a small flag station at Taipo market in order to attract some additional traffic, and a small station will also be built at Lo-fu ferry near the frontier. None of these items were included in the original estimates. I may also say that the jetty at Taipo will be lengthened so as to carry it into deep water, and by this we hope to acquire considerably more traffic from across the bay. The cost of these three items is small and will be met, without increasing the estimates, by abolishing high platforms at the small intermediate stations which are not considered necessary. After much discussion with Mr. Barry when he was here it was decided that the small workshops which would be necessary should be placed on Crown land at the head of Hunghom Bay. It is considered that the building and plant will will not cost more than \$120,000, which is now included in the estimates. After much discussion it was also decided to locate the terminal station on land near Salisbury Road where it would be near the various piers where passengers and baggage would be landed, and more central. It would leave the deep water anchorage free for ocean going steamers. This will involve some land resumption which I think well worth doing in order to acquire the advantages which I have just named. It is not possible to say what the cost of these resumptions will be because it will involve a considerable amount of adjustment between the Colonial Government and the railway accounts. The report of the medical officer is very satisfactory. Beri-beri, and dysentery at the tunnel have decreased by 50 per cent. This is due to better organisation and to better methods. The number of coolies employed on the railway throughout the year per day was 3,244. Both sections—our section and the Chinese section—are now well advanced, and we hope before long to undertake negotiations for a joint working agreement. I think gentlemen, that covers all the points on which you are likely to feel interested in the work during the past year and the prospects in the future—(Applause).

DEMONETIZATION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to demonetize Postage Stamps bearing the Head of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

CHILDREN'S ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law with respect to Children and Young Persons.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

LARCENY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Larceny Ordinance, 1865.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Public Health and Buildings Ordinances 1903-1908.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Life Insurance Companies Ordinance, 1907. In doing so he said: The bill effected certain amendments in the Life Insurance Ordinances recommended by the actuaries.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and on Council resuming the bill was reported as having passed through committee.

AMENDMENT OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Code of Civil Procedure. In doing so he said: Its principal purpose is to secure uniformity in the mode of procedure. It also provides for the payment by a plaintiff of the cost of keeping a defendant in gaol. At present, a creditor who imprisons a debtor on execution judgment has to pay for the keep of the debtor in prison, but for some reason no similar provision was made that a plaintiff should bear the cost of the keep of the defendant whom he imprisons in order to compel him to answer a complaint against him. This bill makes that necessary provision.

The COLONIAL Secretary seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Council went into committee to consider the bill clause by clause, and on resuming it was reported that the bill had passed through committee.

EVIDENCE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Evidence Ordinance, 1899. In doing so he said—This bill has been necessitated by the fact that section 40 of the Evidence Ordinance 1889 contains some errors in description. In that section the word Governor is used where the words His Majesty the King should have appeared. This Ordinance is intended to set right this and other modes of description which are not altogether inaccurate.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause. No amendment was made.

On the Council resuming, the bill was read a third time and passed into law.

AMENDMENT OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the Second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance 1903. He said—The bill is a very short one. Its object is to confer powers on the Governor to make regulations as to the use of wireless telegraphy by merchant ships, British or foreign.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill passed through committee without amendment and was afterwards read a third time.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council go into committee on the bill entitled An Ordinance further to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1899.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that clauses 9 and 13 were reserved at the last meeting for consideration, but as he had amendments to propose to other clauses as well as these two clauses, the bill would need to be reconsidered.

The COLONIAL TREASURER pointed out that the members interested in shipping were absent and it might be as well to postpone consideration of the bill.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL agreed and consideration of the Bill was postponed.

THE PEAK TRAMWAY.

The last order of the day that the Council go into Committee on the Bill entitled an ordinance for authorising the construction of a tramway within the Colony of Hongkong, was not proceeded with.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned until this day week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held afterwards—the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:

ADDITIONAL OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five thousand four hundred and fifty Dollars (\$5,450) in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary. Extension of Old Stables to provide Additional Office Accommodation required for Public Works Department.

STOCKTAKING.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Two thousand two hundred and thirteen Dollars (\$2,213) in aid of the vote Public Works Department, Other Charges, Fees, etc., for stocktaking of stores.

The CHAIRMAN—This is to pay an outside firm for auditing and stocktaking the stores of the Public Works Department.

HON. D. HO KAI—Is this to be an annual thing?

The CHAIRMAN—It ought to be done at least once every two years.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Ninety Dollars (\$90) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, C.—Institutes, Other Charges, Bacteriological Institute and Mortuaries, Conveyance Allowance to Bacteriological Assistant.

OFFICE CHARGES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of two hundred and seventy dollars (\$270) in aid of the vote, Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature, Other Charges, Typewriter.

LAUNCH REPAIRS.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of three hundred and two dollars (\$302) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, A.—Staff, Other Charges, Health Officer of Port, Repairs to Launch.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

There was an Official Dinner at Government House on May 11, to which the following guests were invited: Governor-General Smith, of the Philippines, Sir Francis Piggott, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. May, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Pollock, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn, Mr. Law, Hon. Mr. Hewett, Sir Henry Berkeley, Mr. Gedge, Col. Darling, Capt. Greenway, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Bayard, Rev. and Mrs. Dallas Ennis, Commander Grenfell, Mrs. Volpicelli, Mr. Stuart J. Fuller, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. and Mrs. Butcher, Mr. Craddock, Captain and Mrs. Murray, Lt.-Col. Mrs. and Miss Chapman, Mr. Enright, Lieut. Greenwell.

A CHINESE LOVE STORY.

The story regarding the dumping of a large quantity of rice at a certain house in Bridges Street, and the subsequent forcible removal of two women from the house, has taken on a new dressing.

It appears that both women were brought to Hongkong from Canton by lovers. One was married, while the other was betrothed. Both were dissatisfied with their lot, yielded to the persuasion of the tempters, and left home and friends to come and live with their lovers in Hongkong.

When the flight was discovered, however, the husband of the married woman and the fiancé of the maiden collected five male friends and followed the elopers here. After removing them from the house in which they lived in Bridges Street, they took them to one of the Canton river steamers, and there as previously reported, both women jumped overboard, one being drowned. Her body was recovered on Sunday.

The police subsequently arrested four of the men who came from Canton in pursuit, and the two lovers. They were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on May 10th and remanded for a week.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Tuesday at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutchison presided, and there were present Colonel Bedford, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. A. W. Erewin (Registrar-General), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. H. L. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. Pearse (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

RAT CATCHERS.

The HEAD OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT submitted the following minute:—The Street Committees of Yaumati, Hunghom, Tsimchatsoi, etc., have undertaken to engage and look after a number of rat catchers if the Sanitary Board will defray the expense. A large vote is provided in the estimates for the destruction of rats, and as at present the return of rats in Kowloon is not satisfactory, I think the Board are justified in trying this experiment. As the rat catchers are to be under the control of the Street Committees the abuses which obtained under the old system of rat catchers should be avoided. It is proposed to engage in all ten rat catchers at a salary of \$10 each.

Mr. HO KOM TONG minuted—The proposed arrangement seems to be a good one, and we should give it a fair trial.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER—The cost of the bait will have to be added. Do I understand the rat catchers will not be subject to the orders and directions of the Sanitary Department or Sanitary Board?

HON. MR. HEWETT—Are sufficient measures taken to ensure that these men may not specially breed rats which they may subsequently produce as the result of their labours?

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—The orders and directions of the Sanitary Board or Sanitary Department, I understand, will be carried out through the Street Committees who have undertaken to supervise catchers with a view to preventing such abuses as existed under the old system. The arrangement is a good one, and should be given effect to at an early date.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I think the object of the regulations was simply to insure that the supervision of the Sanitary Department should be exercised through the Street Committees. I do not think it would be worth while for these men to breed rats.

Mr. HOOPER thought the Board might be informed once a month how the system worked so that they might know whether to continue or discontinue it.

The PRESIDENT stated that all rats caught would be taken to the Disinfectant Station, so that the Board would get the exact figures and the cost.

Mr. HOOPER remarked that the Commission found that a large amount of the bait previously used went into the coolies' stomachs instead of into the traps.

It was agreed that the system should be given a trial, and a monthly report submitted to the Board as to the progress made.

MALARIA AT LYEMUN.

Colonel BEDFORD, (Principal Medical Officer of the South China Command) pursuant to notice, moved that "In view of the prevalence of malarial disease amongst His Majesty's troops quartered at Lyemun, and to the fact that this disease is due to conditions obtaining outside War Department property, that a Committee be appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the steps necessary to remove or minimise the conditions favouring malaria in the adjacent village of Shaukiwan and its environs." In doing so he said that this motion of which he had given notice was the first formal proposal that he had made since he had had the honour of sitting at the Board. And as to the reasons which impelled him to take this step, he now asked the very earnest attention of members. He would not occupy the Board's time with any review of the early history of the military occupation of the colony. He thought that the mouldering grave stones at Stanley remained a silent witness to that most disastrous period. He asked the Board to recognise the fact that at the present time the admission rate for malarial diseases amongst the troops serving in Hongkong was greater than that in India or in any other Colony in which soldiers had to serve, with that one exception of the west coast

of Africa, a place the very name of which was redolent with the memory of this disease. Now he was concerned with a military station which for strategical purposes was found necessary to this garrison. He referred to Lyemun and the adjacent village of Shaukiwan. The barracks of Lyemun, which were of modern and improved construction, were situated upon an airy plateau some 250 feet above the sea. The Royal Engineers had spent no small sums of money, and had shown no little skill in rendering the ground and the precincts of the barracks free from any source that could give rise to malarial production. Every soldier was provided with a mosquito net, which was regularly inspected, and surprise visits were made during the night to see that the men used them. The medical officers exercised all care, and as to the water there was no question: it might be compared with the general water supply of Hongkong. But in spite of all the money lavished in preparing the ground around the barracks, and in spite of every care and attention, the admission rate of malarial fever at Lyemun exceeded the admission rate amongst troops in Hongkong as far back as 1903, before anti-malarial measures were undertaken and mosquito nets issued to the troops. After careful inspection and deliberation he, and those who had examined the state of affairs with him, had come to the conclusion that these conditions were due to matters existing outside War Department property, and to discover these matters they had only to look over the edge of the cliff and down upon the bay and village of Shaukiwan. He thought it was the Registrar-General who asked about the admission rate for the police at Shaukiwan. On looking up the 1907 Colonial Medical Report of this Colony, he found the admissions from malarial fever from the police stations throughout the island. The Central was given at 94 per 1000, while that at Shaukiwan amounted to the enormous number of 888 per 1000. With regard to the garrison, amongst the whole of the troops serving in Hongkong for four months of this year, January to April inclusive, there were 48 admissions for malarial fever. Out of that number 30 were from the small garrison at Lyemun. That gave a ratio per thousand of 445 admissions for Lyemun as against 25 for the rest of the garrison, or practically sixteen times as much. He thought all members would agree with him when he said that conditions such as these were far from satisfactory. Now, what was to be found in Shaukiwan? First of all there was a deeply incut bay which was crowded with junks and sampans. As far as he could glean from statistics published, there were some 5,000 or 6,000 persons residing on these junks and sampans. At high tide the vessels were floating on the surface of the water and pouring out their daily quota of excreta into the harbour, and at low tide they were lying on the mud. Leaving the water and going to the land, they would find the main thoroughfare going through Shaukiwan over which all persons going to or leaving barracks must traverse. By the side of that main thoroughfare there was a slightly trickling, sluggish stream. A casual glance at that stream would show that mosquito larvae were breeding there, and the speaker's special sanitary officer reported to him that they belonged to the malarial family known as Anopheles. About this small stream were to be found sundry terraces of cultivated ground. All these terraces were carefully irrigated by means of small water channels or pits, some of which contained water while in the others were fermenting fertilising fluids of the character of which all were aware. These were two admirable examples of the industry of the race, but he considered them black blots in any land having European habitation. Over and above this, there were several streams coming down from the higher land and finding their way to the sea through rocky channels after forming many water holes and pools which were rendered very foetid through the streams being used more or less as public latrines. These rivulets discharged themselves into very small estuaries which went underneath the road and filtered on to the foreshore. In all this, many ideal nurseries for mosquito breeding were found, and he now asked that these conditions be thoroughly inquired into with a view to measures being taken to modify the existing

state of affairs. He was very well aware that malaria could not be fought without an expenditure of money. In that titanic task which our American cousins had undertaken of cutting through the Panama Canal it was estimated that the expenditure would be something like £40,000,000, and he found that 2½ per cent., or as much as £100,000 annually was being devoted to preventive medicine as apart from any hospital or other medical services. And he saw by an estimate given by the authorities in Mauritius, that on account of the ravages of malaria in a district near one of the military cantonments, they were expending no less than 80,000 rupees. Now, it was not at such figures or at such sums that he was hinting, as the small body of troops at Lyemun could not in any way be compared with the vast army of workers in Panama, nor could the streams and rivulets now breeding Anopheles at Shaukiwan be compared to the pestilential swamps which are causing so much trouble in the colony of Mauritius. At the same time, the conditions which obtained at Lyemun were sufficiently serious to justify him in making the proposal he had brought forward, and he trusted that as a result some steps would be taken to mitigate the present state of affairs and thus relieve him, as Principal Medical Officer of this Garrison, of no small amount of anxiety for the health of His Majesty's troops serving at Lyemun.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong had much pleasure in seconding the resolution. He was constrained to support it from the conviction which had been forced upon him not only by a perusal of the valuable report by Dr. J. C. Thomson, regarding a research into the prevalence of mosquitoes and malaria in the Colony of Hongkong and in the New Territories, but by his personal and close observation of the progress which has been made in the successful campaign instituted, and since carried on by Government, in the year 1900. Those of his colleagues, who had the privilege of a seat on this Board since that year, would probably recall the pregnant observation of Dr. Thomson when he remarked that "the crusade against the mosquito should include the alex as well as the Anopheles. Anopheles must be dealt with by the Government chiefly, though owners of property may probably find it to their advantage to move privately in this matter as well." In anticipation of the appointment of the Committee asked for in the resolution, he wished to lay stress on what Dr. Thomson conceived to be the duty of the Government. His imperative injunction appeared to be of peculiar appositeness to the matter that pressed upon public attention in the motion submitted by the Principal Medical Officer. The adoption of Dr. Thomson's recommendation for the past nine years happily with such beneficial results, seemed to impose upon the Government the obligation to improve the district in and around Lyemun, within the immediate vicinity of the Garrison Quarters. They had tacitly accepted as their duty such improvement in regard to the other parts of the Island, notably the Western district, Kennedy Town, Kennedy and Macdonnell Roads, the neighbourhood of the Naval Hospital and Morrison Hill Road, and Happy Valley. The Military return of admissions to hospital for malaria happily showed a marked reduction in the incidence of this disease. It furnished the strongest arguments in favour of the adoption of the trite old saying that "prevention is better than cure." The Government had not yet seen fit to publish the departmental reports for last year, so for purposes of comparison they were left with the figures for the decennial period ending 1907. He had just remarked that the anti-malarial measures were inaugurated by Government in 1900. They would see what the effect of those measures had been on the European Troops. In 1901 with a strength of 1,673 men the total admissions to hospital during the year were 1,010. In 1902 the soldiers suffered severely; out of 1,381 men there were 1,523 admissions. For the next five years the respective figures were:—

Year.	Strength.	Admission.
1903	1,220	937
1904	1,426	390
1905	1,370	348
1906	1,525	480
1907	1,461	297

The per mille rate, which stood as high as 1,102.8 in 1902, before the preventive measures could bear fruitful results, fell away to 195.0 in 1907. The figures, which he had quoted, clearly demonstrated the efficacy of the steps that had been taken throughout the Colony generally, and which should commend themselves now for adoption, in regard to Lyemun in particular, once that the evil existing there had been brought to the notice of this Board. The various units of our local Garrison constituted too valuable an asset to the Colony for us to neglect, and he trusted that no little monetary consideration would stand in the way of the Government towards improving the surroundings of the living quarters of those whose lives, unimpaired by preventable disease, such as malaria, tended to the greater security of the Colony.

It was agreed that the Director of Public Works, or whoever was acting in his stead, Colonel Bedford and Dr. Fitzwilliams should be appointed as a committee of enquiry.

TILES OR CEMENT RENDERING.

In reference to an application from a contractor, the Medical Officer of Health wrote a minute in which he recommended the Board to accept Canton marble tiles as "smooth and impervious material" if not broken and if properly pointed in cement.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS—I think the Medical Officer of Health's recommendation should be agreed to.

Mr. HOOPER—I agree with the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

RAT RETURN.

A return showed that in the week ending May 1st, 1,391 rats were caught in Victoria of which three were infected. In Kowloon 305 rats were caught, two being infected.

COST OF DISINFECTANTS.

With reference to the question regarding the purchase of carbolate creosote for disinfecting purposes raised by Mr. Hooper at the last meeting of the Board, considerable correspondence was submitted.

Mr. MESSER in a minute dated October 6th, 1908, reported that Dr. Clark, Medical Officer of Health after consultation with the Government analyst and bacteriologist, recommended that Calvert's carbolated creosote be stocked as a disinfectant instead of Jeyes' fluid. Recent plague researches in India showed that disinfectants for killing free bacteria were useless, as infection was carried by the bacilli in the stomach of the rat flea and that a disinfectant to be useful for plague measures must be able to kill the germ carrier of the rat flea. Disinfectants were wanted for deodorising and for disinfecting purposes for cases of typhoid, small pox, cholera, etc. For deodorising purposes, there was not much amongst the various coal tar disinfectants, the chief point of consideration being therefore the price. For disinfecting purposes, for estimating the carbolic acid test, the most useful organism was probably B. Typhosus. Recently various tests had been made by the Government experts on these disinfectants the tests sent being samples supplied by the Standardised Disinfectants Co., Ltd., of which detailed results were set forth. The price of carbolated creosote, 1/6 per gallon, was the cheapest. The Principal Civil Medical Officer was of opinion that carbolated creosote was the cheapest disinfectant for general use, with which view the Medical Officer of Health concurred.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—I would like to know the quantities of the respective disinfectants obtained by the Sanitary Board during 1908, and from whence they were obtained, and the cost of each to the Government here.

The PRESIDENT, in answer to Mr. Hooper's minute, stated that 2310 gallons of Jeyes Fluid had been purchased locally at a total cost of \$4730.98 or \$1.68 per gallon. 2520 gallons had been purchased through the Crown Agents at a total cost of \$4770, which worked out at \$1.89 per gallon.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT asked if it was fair to put the amount in dollars, seeing that the rate of exchange might account for the difference in prices.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Hooper asked for the rate in Hongkong money.

Mr. HOOPER asked the Medical Officer of Health whether the Jeyes Fluid procured through the Crown Agents was Jeyes Fluid,

or whether it was not a special preparation which the Crown Agents asked to supply to meet requirements.

The MEDICAL OFFICER of Health said he could not answer the question. What was ordered came.

The PRESIDENT—It was ordered as Jeyes Fluid and sent as Jeyes Fluid. The bacteriological test showed that it was superior to the stuff purchased locally.

Mr. HOOPER—And it was sold as Jeyes Fluid?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Are there various grades of Jeyes Fluid?

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH—They don't quote different grades.

Mr. HOOPER—You are not aware of any stuff being procured from Jeyes which was not Jeyes Fluid?

The MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH—Yes, two preparations have come from Jeyes.

Mr. HOOPER—The only point I wish particularly to call attention to after these figures is the fact the Jeyes Fluid obtained locally is cheaper than that obtained through the Crown Agents.

The PRESIDENT—You do not remark that the Jeyes Fluid from the Crown Agents is bacteriologically superior.

Mr. HOOPER—On that I might have to produce evidence to show that it is not Jeyes Fluid at all.

The discussion then ended.

DIVIDING THE CITY INTO HEALTH DISTRICTS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wrote to the effect that the Board's recommendation to divide the city into 12 instead of 10 health districts was now under the consideration of H. E. the Governor.

AN ABDUCTION CHARGE.

At the Magistracy on May 10 before Mr. F. A. Hazeland an amah was prosecuted on a charge of abducting a girl fifteen years of age.

According to the story told by the girl, which was uncorroborated, the defendant arranged that she should take some clothing to the defendant's house in Blacksmith Lane. Later, she was to meet her near the Cricket Ground and say the defendant was her mother if questioned. The girl was first at the trysting place on the day agreed, the defendant subsequently appearing and waving her hands as she approached. Without speaking the pair proceeded to the Canton Steamers Wharf. When near their destination the defendant asked witness if she was hungry, and on her replying in the affirmative bought her a basin of *cunji*. Just after eating this witness was met by a relative, who called to her, and then the defendant ran away.

His Worship—Is this prosecution by the Registrar-General?

Inspector Kerr—No, your Worship.

Defendant asked his Worship to try the case dispassionately and let justice be done. If she attempted to abduct the girl she was willing to suffer any penalty; in fact, she would allow the Court to cut her in pieces. She was engaged with the girl's mistress for about ten days, and the girl took the clothing to her (defendant's) house on her own initiative.

His Worship—She said you arranged she was to be a daughter and not a servant.

Defendant—I never said that.

His Worship said the evidence for the prosecution was altogether too flimsy, and it was very obvious that most of the testimony given in the witness box was coached. It was not sufficient to convict; therefore he would discharge the defendant.

A VALUABLE FIND.

The Tsingkiangpu correspondent, of the *Shanghai Times* writing on April 26, says:—

Near Fang San (a low mountain some ten miles to the west Haichow) a huge piece of crystal was recently unearthed. It is said to weigh 3000 catties, is over 4 feet in diameter and 5 feet long. This is the second large crystal found at this place within two months. The crystal is a sort of flint. It is used in the making of Chinese spectacles and brings large prices. It is said that, for the piece just spoken of, the owners were offered \$25,000.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 10th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR F. PIGGOTT).

THE GOVERNOR AS PLAINTIFF.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Frederick Lugard) for and on behalf of the Government of Hongkong brought an action against Chu Ping, of 313 Des Voeux Road Central claiming specific performance by the defendant of agreements dated 9th December 1889 and 24th July 1903 in respect of marine lot No 53 A. The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Denny, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Governor, and Mr. W. Slade and Mr. G. C. Alabaster, instructed by Mr. Gedge, of Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for defendant.

The pleadings, which were very lengthy, were read by Mr. Pollock, who explained one paragraph by stating that the Government on receipt of certain strongly worded letters from one of the parties yielded to pressure.

His Lordship—It is interesting to note that the Government yielded to pressure.

Mr. Pollock—In this case I may say they were foolish to have done so. If they had taken the right course there would not have been all this trouble and protracted litigation.

When Mr. Pollock had concluded reading the pleadings.

Mr. Slade moved that the action be dismissed. He said his Lordship would see that the action was founded upon the rights which were alleged to be plaintiff's by virtue of two agreements. The first agreement was made in 1889 with the then Governor of Hongkong and the second agreement was made ostensibly with Sir Henry Blake in 1899. The present action was brought by Sir Frederick Lugard, Governor of Hongkong, for and on behalf of the Government of Hongkong. If his Lordship took portions of that title *seriatim* he would see that no possible portion of the form of words used to describe the plaintiff gave him any right of action at all. In the first place taking him as an individual the statement of claim did not in any way deduce his title from his predecessors in office.

His Lordship asked if there were any clause in the Interpretation Ordinance.

Mr. Pollock—Yes, there is.

Mr. Slade said there was a clause in the Interpretation Ordinance which stated that in all ordinances the Governor meant the Governor for the time being.

His Lordship—It does not deal with rights?

Mr. Slade replied that there was no connection with rights at all. Proceeding, he said it ought to be shown on the face of the pleadings how the title got from the then Governor in 1889 and Sir Henry Blake into the plaintiff. It might be that plaintiff had a title but it did not appear on the face of the pleadings. The difficulty was not cured by the addition of the words "Governor of Hongkong," which was his title. There was no ordinance which gave the Governor of Hongkong right to bring action. He was not a corporation and he had no right of action in the Colony so far as counsel was aware. It was provided that any actions against the Government should be brought against the Attorney-General, but there was no co-relative authority given to the Attorney-General to bring an action for and on behalf of the Government, and there was no power given to the Governor for the time being to sue on behalf of the Government.

His Lordship—Is this the first action the Government has brought?

Mr. Slade—I believe so. I think it is inconceivable that any other should have been brought. Proceeding, he added that the words which followed the title did not help the plaintiff in suing for and on behalf of the Government of Hongkong. There was no such statutory legal entity as the Government of Hongkong. It was a loose expression, very well understood in ordinary language, but it was on the same par as the Cabinet in England. No action could be brought against the Cabinet in England.

His Lordship referred to a recent action against the Government of New Zealand.

Mr. Slade continuing, said that it was perfectly well known that actions at common law brought for and on behalf of the government of England, could only be brought in the name of the reigning sovereign unless there were special enactment or charter or fact which created an officer one of the executors, the effect of which was to convert the high officer of the Crown into a corporation sole. There were a good many corporations sole, and they could bring actions. Counsel referred his Lordship to the action *Slooman v. the Governor and Government of New Zealand*, the head note to which read "A colonial government is not a corporation and cannot be effectively served with a writ." The judgments of the court below made it quite clear that there was no such legal entity known as the government of a colony.

His Lordship questioned if the same principle applied where there must be a legal person, as in the present case.

Mr. Slade replied that suing for and on behalf of the Government would not give him a right of action if the named plaintiff had no right of action.

His Lordship asked if it was not a matter which could be amended.

Mr. Slade said that if the wrong plaintiff brought an action and it was proved he was the wrong party he must abide the consequences.

His Lordship pointed out that the defendant would not be prejudiced if this were put in some other form.

Mr. Slade said they pleaded that the plaintiff had no right of action and the case went on just as if he had a right of action.

His Lordship said it was not quite the same as if he were to bring an action on behalf of the Governor in succession to Sir Henry Blake. There was the person holding the same office and there was the principle running through it that it was essentially the same title.

Mr. Slade—Let him state his title and I may be able to traverse it. The action is defective because his title is not stated. I will deal with it as soon as it is stated. If the Governor has acquired the rights held by his predecessors surely they must be stated, otherwise there is no cause of action shown. He may be the proper plaintiff, but he has not shown that he is in the statement of claim. It was certainly a case for amendment. I go further and say that the name of the governor as plaintiff should be wiped out and that of His Majesty the King substituted. I fear, however, that His Majesty would not approve of being made the catspaw for two greedy Chinese who have already been defeated in the Privy Council. (laughter) Continuing, he said that the Governor was the agent of His Majesty the King.

His Lordship said there was the question of estoppel.

Mr. Slade replied that he did not intend to press that.

Mr. Pollock, replying to Mr. Slade, pointed out that by the Interpretation Ordinance of 1897 it was enacted that the word "governor" should include the officer for the time being administering the Government, and that brought him to his second point which was that in anything that was statutory the governor would include the officer administering the government for the time being. Assuming something was done not statutory then the right of the Governor in whose period it was done would pass on to his successors.

He then went on to state that the Praya Reclamation Ordinance laid it down that it was the Governor or somebody on his behalf who entered into the agreements according to the form of schedule quoted. This agreement was made by Mr. Bruce Shepherd for and on behalf of the Government and it was made in the statutory form, so that the Governor in the articles of agreement included successors in title. Unless that were so a very great absurdity would result because it would mean that assuming the then Governor to be still alive his friend's client could not possibly claim a good title unless he got some sort of assignment from Governor Des Voeux.

Mr. Slade—No, thank you. A crown lease will satisfy me quite well.

Mr. Pollock said there was another reason why it would be absurd to limit the government to the man holding office at the time,—Sir William Des Voeux. That was that the reclamation work occupied

several years—that it begun in May 1899, ten years after the passing of the preliminary ordinance of 1889. Mr. Pollock then proceeded to deal with the agreements, and explained in answer to his Lordship that the second agreement was made because it was advisable to ensure that no rights had been waived by the Government.

At the close of Mr. Pollock's speech his Lordship indicated to Mr. Slade that he did not see any difficulty about retaining the name of the present plaintiff.

Mr. Slade said he could make it quite clear he thought.

His Lordship thought the action must be brought by Sir Frederick Lugard. The agreement recognises the existence of this body called the government of Hongkong as it promises to indemnify the Government in the event of certain contingencies. He would however give a more formal decision later.

Mr. Slade contended that the only right of a governor for the time being to stand in the shoes of a predecessor arose from statute. The ordinance was strictly limited, and he went on to argue that the schedule was not incorporated in the ordinance. It was perfectly clear that the agreement entered into between the Governor in his capacity as governor was an agreement binding upon the person represented. He concluded by saying that the only right of action would be by petition to the King.

His Lordship thought that the other way was the practice here—petition to the Colonial Government.

Mr. Slade—Apart from local legislative enactment it must be by petition to the King.

His Lordship—The Governor exercises all the powers of the King in the colony.

Mr. Slade—I submit it is not so. That would be a contradiction to the *Sloman v. Government of New Zealand* case where it was decided you could not sue the government.

His Lordship—In that name. That is a highly technical position.

Mr. Slade proceeding said that wherever a minister of the crown made a contract by virtue of his office for and on behalf of the crown he could not be sued upon that contract. It must be by petition of right. Similarly he could not sue upon that contract in his own name unless he was a corporation sole. The only person who could sue upon that contract, when the plaintiff was no longer available, was the person on whose behalf it was made—that was the King.

After some discussion as to the agreement his Lordship said he thought that Mr. Slade had better take a formal decision that the action was rightly brought. The question went to one of the roots of the action and if he decided the question then he would have to go deeply into the facts of the case.

Mr. Slade thought the most convenient course to adopt would be to postpone decision until his Lordship was able to appreciate the points brought forward.

His Lordship said that if the agreement came within the Ordinance then he would decide now that the parties to the action were right. If it fell outside the ordinance then he could not decide that then without going more fully into the case.

Argument was continued and the case adjourned.

Tuesday, May 11th.

The hearing of the case was resumed.

The defendant denied that there was any action or ground of equitable relief to the plaintiff and that the statement of claim did not sustain a claim for the relief prayed for.

Mr. Pollock continued his speech and wished to put in the *Government Gazette* in support of his contention.

Mr. Slade however objected, stating that the Government were taking advantage of an error of their own in order to obtain an advantage over a third party.

His Lordship—It is a most extraordinary position.

Mr. Slade—There is nothing like it at home. The hearing was again adjourned.

Wednesday, May 12th.

The hearing of the action in which H. E. the Governor was plaintiff and Chu Ping defendant was resumed.

Mr. Fletcher, Clerk of Councils, was called as a witness.

Hon. Mr. Pollock (for the Government) to witness—Don't answer the question I am about to ask. It will be objected to. Do you find in this C.S.O. of 1889 a minute by the then Governor Sir William Des Voeux dated 27th. November—

Mr. Slade—You had better stop there.

Mr. Pollock—I must complete the question.

Mr. Slade—You have asked enough to identify the minute.

His Mr. Pollock—No.

His Lordship—Even if you stop there it can't be evidence.

Mr. Pollock—It must appear what the general object is.

Mr. Slade—I object.

Mr. Pollock—I want to go on with my question.

His Lordship—I don't think it is admissible.

Mr. Pollock—If your Lordship will allow me to put the question you will see—

Mr. Slade—My friend is starting to put a leading question as to the contents of that document.

Mr. Pollock—I must ask the question.

His Lordship—I cannot see how a minute, taken in the abstract, from one officer to another in an official capacity, can possibly be evidence.

Mr. Pollock—I am trying to argue this matter without introducing too much, but I am driven to it.

His Lordship—If the question is put I must take it down.

Mr. Slade—I object to the question as put so far.

Mr. Pollock—An objection cannot be taken in the middle of a question. Any question submitted by counsel must be taken down by the Court. This minute asks for the opinion of the Attorney General. This is important in view of the suggestion that the Governor treated Yui Chow as a pestilent fellow with no rights. If I can show that the opinion of the Attorney General was obtained by the Governor and acted upon it will indicate what was the intention of the Governor.

His Lordship—Now you come to the point whether the opinion of the Attorney General is admissible or not.

Mr. Pollock—Will your Lordship allow me to finish my question?

Mr. Slade—I object to that question being finished. It is enough to show that it is not competent for counsel in the form of a leading question to state the contents of the document.

Mr. Pollock (continuing the question)—Asking the opinion of the Attorney General with reference to Chu Chuen being permitted to sign the reclamation agreement.

His Lordship—I am prepared to overrule this question unless I hear good ground to the contrary.

Mr. Pollock—It won't be intelligible unless the whole question is put.

Mr. Slade—I ask your Lordship to uphold my objection.

Mr. Pollock—There cannot be any objection unless your Lordship takes down the question.

Mr. Slade—When the early portion of the sentence shows it is going to be an *ex-parte* statement of the contents of a document which is inadmissible, I must certainly object to such a statement being made.

Mr. Pollock—I ask your Lordship to take the whole question.

Mr. Slade—I object.

Mr. Pollock—There is no such thing as objecting to a question unless it is taken down. We are not before a jury.

His Lordship—I quite admit that. I will put it down and make a note of the objection.

Mr. Slade—Before my friend is allowed to make an *ex-parte* statement hear my objection and decide it. I object because it is obvious from the portion of the question already put that the rest of the question is going to be a statement of the alleged contents of an inadmissible document.

Mr. Pollock—I ask that my objection be noted that a question cannot stop in the middle. His Lordship—I cannot see how this can be evidence.

Mr. Pollock—If the words of the Attorney General are left out there is nothing to argue. My learned friend has taken his objection too soon.

His Lordship—I think it is an arguable point. Mr. Slade—My submission is that it is hearsay evidence, and hearsay evidence is not admissible. It is exactly on the same footing as if it were a letter written by the Governor. The only material occasions on which hearsay evidence is admitted are in the cases of entries made by deceased persons, and even if that minute fell within these conditions, preliminary proof of the death of Sir William Des Voeux—who is still alive—would have to be given. If a man is living and available as a witness a letter of his cannot be put in unless it is proved in the ordinary way.

His Lordship—It seems to me unnecessary on the part of Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock—It is important to show what the motives of the Governor were.

His Lordship—Yes.

The question was then put, and the answer was taken down that the opinion purported to be the opinion of the Acting Attorney General in 1889.

Mr. Slade, in opening the case for the defendant, stated that it had been decided that the persons who were entitled to come into the reclamation rights under the Ordinance were frontagers, and any frontager mentioned in the schedule in order to obtain a moral right, had to contribute to the work which was done in front of his lot and so obtain 999 years lease of the land not needed for roads. Yui Chow refused to enter into any agreement, although Mr. Bruce Shepherd tried several times to get him to sign the agreement. After reading the judgment of the Privy Council, counsel said that his Lordship would have before him exactly the same evidence as in the case dealt with by the Privy Council, and though his Lordship could come to his own conclusion on the facts, he was in a measure bound by the law in the judgment read.

His Lordship—Answer this question? How can I try this case?

Mr. Slade—I don't know, my lord, His Excellency the Governor asks you.

His Lordship—The question has been decided between Yui Chow and the Government in bringing precisely the same case.

Mr. Pollock—No, my lord, we are claiming on an undertaking which the Privy Council said Yui Chow could not sue on.

The hearing was again adjourned.

ILLICIT OPIUM.

Excise Officers arrested a native in an unnumbered matshed at Mongkok on Saturday for having in his possession a quantity of opium without a permit, and machinery necessary for the preparation of opium. The drug was packed in boxes ready for sale, and it is believed that the defendant has been doing a thriving business with the railway staff. The paraphernalia for preparing opium was discovered in a distant outhouse, the key of which was found in defendant's pocket when he was arrested.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland, before whom the case was tried at the Magistracy yesterday, remarked that it was a bad one and imposed a fine of \$500, in default three months' imprisonment.

RECKLESS DRIVING.

Some of the ricsha coolies at Wanchai appear to be imbued with extra energy, for of late they have been making the pace so fast that they have been unable to haul up in time to avoid collisions. One coolie, while travelling at a high rate of speed along Wanchai Road knocked a small boy down, and did not wait to see what damage he had done. The boy's leg was broken, and he had to be removed to hospital.

Another accident occurred in Arsenal Street, where a pedestrian was overtaken by a ricsha and run down. In this instance, however, the coolie stopped, placed the injured man in his ricsha and conveyed him to No. 2 Police Station. The victim was removed to hospital, where he is expected to be detained for a couple of weeks. The coolie appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on May 10th on a charge of reckless driving, and the hearing of the charge was adjourned, bail being fixed in the sum of \$10.

INTERESTING FORTUNE TELLING CASE.

A WOMAN IN NEED OF AN NUCLE.

At the Magistracy on the 10th instant before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, the hearing of the charge against a native named Fung Chun, of obtaining by a false pretence, jewellery to the value of \$3,045, was continued.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) prosecuted, and Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the defendant.

Chan Man Hing, recalled, was cross-examined by Mr. Shenton. She said she went to see the defendant on February 6th to get her fortune told. She went to see him because her amah told her he was an expert. The amah did not say she had seen him many times before.

Did you go because you wished to know what your future was?—Yes.

You hoped, I suppose, that it would be a little better than your past?

Mr. Almada objected, and his Worship asked Mr. Shenton to put the question clearly.

Are you not a concubine?—Yes.

And were you not on bad terms with the "kit fat"?—No.

In your first interview with the fortune teller, didn't you take some joss divining papers to be translated?—No.

Did he tell your fortune?—Yes.

What did he tell you?—He said I was very poor formerly, and had to be sold to several families. Further he stated that I would have to remove a mole from my face; if not it would grow larger. Also that I must worship, and if I did not know the way he offered to worship for me. If I did not remove the mole he said I would lack wealth and children. The defendant told me he worshipped for me on his verandah beneath the heavens. I did not see the defendant worshipping, but he asked for \$5 for so doing and I handed it over.

It was rather a curious thing, wasn't it, that the fortune he told you was correct?—Yes.

Were you kidnapped when you were a small child?—Yes.

You went again to the defendant, didn't you?—Yes, between the 1st and 19th February.

Why did you go again?—To ask him to tell my life story.

What, again?—Yes.

And when he told your life story he gave you the usual written paper, didn't he?—My amah brought it round to me.

Where is the paper?—I returned it to him because he said he had to pray for 49 days.

Mr. Almada suggested that a number of the questions put to the witness were not relevant, but his Worship remarked that he did not think Mr. Shenton was wasting the time of the Court.

You have considerable savings haven't you?—Yes.

When was your third visit to defendant?—On March 24th.

Did he then tell you to take all your jewellery to him?—Yes.

Why?—He said, "If you bring all your jewellery to me I'll seal it up with a charm. After that it will never be snatched from you."

Did you take all your jewellery?—All except two pieces I was wearing.

You kept the tin in which the jewellery was sealed closed until about the 8th of April, didn't you?—Yes.

Why did you want fourteen days before opening the tin?—Defendant told me I was to ask permission before opening it.

Why did you open the tin on April 8th?—My amah told me she heard the defendant was a knave, and suggested that I should open the tin and see.

Was your amah present?—Yes.

Why did the defendant go to Macao with your amah?—To go to the Shing Wing temple to worship, and to obtain blessings.

Did you pay the passagers of both?—No. I paid my amah's.

Did you at any time become the god daughter of the defendant?—No.

Have you ever tiffed with him?—No.

After further cross-examination the hearing was adjourned.

The hearing was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 11th inst., of the case in which a man named Fung Chun was charged with obtaining by a false pretence jewellery to the value of \$3,045.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) prosecuted, and Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for the defendant.

The case for the prosecution having closed,

Mr. Shenton called the defendant, who said he was a Chinese letter writer. On February 6th the complainant and her amah visited him. The latter called on him a week after his arrival in Hongkong, and asked him to write a letter for her. It was she who introduced him to complainant, who carried with her on her first visit a bundle of joss sticks. The amah told him she had accompanied her mistress to a place of worship with the object of obtaining blessings. The mistress said she had obtained a quantity of divining papers, and asked him to explain the contents. One of the papers (Joss messages) was for herself; one prayed for wealth; and one was for her son. On March 22nd complainant again visited him, being accompanied by her amah. She asked him to again explain the divining papers, as she could not recollect the previous explanations. He agreed, and meantime complainant whispered in her amah's ear, and the amah went down into the street. Then complainant asked him of what part he was a native, remarking that he looked very much like her third uncle, who was well educated and walked in a very peculiar way. He walked very awkwardly, and when she was a child she liked to see him walk. She also said his feet had "three holes in them," and he asked how it was she knew it, and who she was. She said she was Ah Sang. He asked why she came to Hongkong, and she told him that when she was ten years old she was kidnapped and sold into a brothel. Subsequently she was taken into a family house by a man who bought her several thousand dollars' worth of jewellery. Further she told defendant that she had "a son from heaven." He remarked, "That is well. You have a husband, you have a son and you have wealth."

Did she tell you anything about her husband?—She said that since her child was born the first wife learned of her position as second wife.

Did she say anything about her husband's character?—She said he had several wives, and that his wealth would soon diminish.

Did she say that would affect her in any particular way?—She said she was afraid that when her husband lost his wealth he would beg her jewellery.

Did she say anything about going back to the country?—She said she had no relations in Hongkong until she made his acquaintance, as uncle No. 3, and asked if he really was uncle No. 3. If so, she asked him to favour her by tracing her parents. If he could, not, but if he was really uncle No. 3, she would ask him to take back some jewellery to the country. Then she would have something for the support of her mother and herself if misfortune overtook her husband.

Did she say anything else?—I told her she had nothing to be afraid of. If she accompanied me to the country I would be accused of kidnapping her with the object of securing her wealth.

Did she suggest anything about the amah becoming your god daughter?—She asked me if I had any objection.

Did the amah visit you on the following day?—Yes, she arrived with four boxes of sweetmeats and a parcel of fruit.

Why did she bring this?—She said with a smiling face. My mistress said we were both to become your god daughters, and instructed me to call you uncle No. 3. "Is that right?" He replied that it did not matter whether she called him uncle No. 3 or not.

After further evidence was taken the case was again adjourned.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 12th inst., the hearing was continued of the case in which a fortune teller was charged with obtaining by a false pretence jewellery to the value of \$3,045.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) prosecuted, and

Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the defendant.

Defendant recalled, was cross-examined by Mr. Almada. He said that besides being a letter writer he was also a fortune teller. He came to Hongkong because of the State mourning in China. He was not allowed to wear a red button or silk there, consequently he found it very inconvenient and came to this British possession until the period of State mourning had expired. When he first started here he made from \$3 to \$8 a day. He did not persuade a good customer to call again so that he could make more money. When the complainant first visited him she asked him to explain certain divining papers. Defendant did not mention what his fee was. He did not notice that complainant wore a lot of jewellery, because he concentrated all his attention on the divining papers.

In the first interview with her did you notice that she had any particular liking for you?—No.

And in the second interview can you suggest any reason why she said you looked like uncle No. 3?—She said so, but I did not recognise her.

Didn't she ask you to tell her fortune?—Yes, only with regard to the mole on her face. She asked whether it was good or bad.

Did you not tell her that she would lose all she possessed in the world?—I did not.

Wasn't it at your suggestion that she took the jewellery to you?—No.

Can you suggest any reason why she should have taken the jewellery to you of her own free will?—Her husband had already expended 10,000 on girls, and she was afraid he would go bankrupt, and that she would get nothing to eat.

And you considered she had an extraordinary affection for you?—No. Why should she like me?

Why should she ask you to take charge of her jewellery?—Because she was alone in the world.

When she brought the jewellery together with other things, you thought she was going to give it to you, didn't you?—I dare not accept it, because I could not keep unaccountable things in my house. When I found she had left jewellery with me I sent it back at once.

If you did not think it was a present why did you open the parcel?—I was told it contained eatables. There seemed to be opium inside.

Why did you tell the police the jewellery was a present?—Because when it was given me, I was told it was a present. On the same night I was arrested as a thief.

You said the complainant asked you to take her to Macao and live there?—Yes.

Why?—For three reasons. Firstly, she wished me to find her parents; secondly, if I was really her uncle No. 3 she would accompany me back to the country to buy property; and thirdly, since the *kit fat* knew she had given birth to a son she (the complainant) had not spent a comfortable day.

You knew perfectly well you were not her third uncle?—I have got such a niece.

When she first suggested that you were uncle No. 3 why didn't you act in an honest way and say you were not?—I persuaded her. I said it was hard to say whether I was or not.

Were you going to Macao to live as man and wife?—No, as uncle and niece.

You agreed to?—No, I did not wish to go.

During your absence in Macao you said your wife took the jewellery and ran away?—I said the complainant gave the jewellery to my wife to run away with.

Why did you say that?—Because the amah told me in the hotel at Macao.

I put it to you that you asked the complainant to bring this jewellery, and told her you would charm the case so that she would not be robbed of it?—I did not say that.

Leung San, defendant's second wife, said the complainant had called frequently at her house, and had sent presents of edibles. These were sent when defendant was recognised as complainant's godfather. On the defendant's birthday the complainant and her amah called to present their compliments to him. Witness went out to purchase macaroni, and then they all dined together.

Did you ever see your husband practising fortune telling?—No.

Or worshipping?—No. It's nothing to do with me.

Did you ever see the defendant's first wife and the complainant talking?—Yes.

Do you know where your husband's first wife now is?—No.

Have you had trouble with your husband with reference to the complainant and the amah?—Yes, I scolded him.

Why?—Because they came too often, and I didn't like it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Almada:

Did your husband ever tell fortunes before?—No.

Have you ever been a fortune teller?—No.

And you know nothing about this case?—I know what I have said.

At this stage the case was adjourned until Wednesday at 11.30 a.m.

A STORY OF THE SEA.

At the Magistracy on May 8th before Mr. F. A. Hazeland Leslie Simmons, second engineer of the s.s. "Glenturret," proceeded against a Japanese fireman whom he accused of having caused him bodily injury while at sea.

Prosecutor stated that the assault took place while the ship was between London and Port Said on March 30th. Witness was in the stokehold, and defendant was assisting to turn out the ashes, but as the steam was going down witness told him to leave the ashes alone and look after the fires. The man was bending down in front of witness at the time and witness tapped him on the elbow when he told him to look to the fires. Thereupon defendant turned round and struck witness in the face with the shovel, inflicting a wound under the lower lip. Witness immediately dropped unconscious and knew no more until he was picked up by one of the firemen. When he got on his feet he asked what had happened, and one of the men said something had fallen on him from overhead and knocked him down. Witness then went to the engine room and later in company with the Chief Engineer, he again went down to the stokehold. There were only three firemen there then, the other having disappeared. These three men told the same story as to something falling from overhead. Witness then received medical treatment, being laid up for a week. Asked if he saw defendant strike him with the shovel witness said, "I saw him coming round with the shovel in his hand, your Worship; I know no more after that." Witness did not tell the Chief Engineer that defendant struck him. When witness showed the Chief Engineer his face the latter asked how it happened, and witness replied that he did not know, but something had struck him. A story first got about that the greaser was the cause of the assault, and it was only about ten days ago that witness said anything to the Chief Engineer about defendant coming at him with a shovel.

His Worship—Seems extraordinary, doesn't it, that you should wait nearly a month? Yes, but there were so many rumours going about another man.

Looks rather as if you didn't know, doesn't it?—It was so sudden, your Worship, that I would not swear to it. I only saw the man turning round. After that I knew nothing. When this other story got out about the greaser I kept quiet and said nothing about it.

Defendant denied that he was in any way connected with the injury. He swore that he never lifted the shovel to complainant.

Defendant was discharged, his Worship saying he could not convict on an accusation made a month after the injury.

It is stated that at a recent meeting in reference to anti-opium measures, Prince Kung, the Anti-Opium Commissioner, proposed to add to the severity of the Opium Prohibiting Laws next year. All officials who smoke opium should be cashiered of their rank. They will then be, on the same footing as the common people and if they should not break off the opium habit, they should, later, be liable, as other opium smokers, to be classed as outcasts and to be deprived of all citizen rights and privileges.

COMPANY MEETING.

THE DUNLOP RUBBER PLANTATION CO., LTD.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Plantation Co., Ltd., held at their offices, No. 1, Prince's Building, Hongkong, on the 8th inst., the following report on the Company's property and the progress made during the year under review, was read by the chairman, Mr. T. E. GRIFFITH:—

"At our last Annual General Meeting, held on 7th May, 1908, reference was made to the work done on the estate during the previous year. Since then, I am pleased to state very satisfactory progress has been made in the development of our property. Last year, besides the construction of over a mile of estate roadways, coolie lines and other necessary buildings, 220 acres of land were planted up with rubber, making in all 280 acres under rubber cultivation at the end of last year. Acting on the instruction of your directors, the estate was visited and reported upon in November last by Mr. Lushington, manager of Senawang Estate. The report was a very favourable one. Mr. Lushington stated that there is no doubt about the lay of land being an excellent one for the rapid growth of rubber. The report also mentioned that the cultivated portion of the estate was in good order and condition, the trees healthy, and the growth rapid. I am also pleased to state that so far no signs of disease or loss from white ants has been made manifest. The health of the labour force employed on the estate has been remarkably good. On many rubber estates loss incurred by sickness is a very serious problem involving great expenditure and disorganisation of the labour force. During the year under notice I am glad to say there were no deaths from sickness on the estate and the total expenditure on medicines and hospital fees amounted to only \$106. From a health point of view I think that our estate compares very favourably with the majority of rubber estates in the F.M.S. or elsewhere. Our labour force consists of about 120 coolies of whom 70 are indentured Javanese. There was only one desertion during the year. In the State of Selangor the number of desertions from the various rubber estates in 1908 amounted to over 21 per cent. of the total number of indentured coolies employed. On many estates loss entailed by the desertion of coolies has proved to be a very serious item, and we may be permitted to congratulate ourselves upon the smallness of our loss under this heading. An additional area of about 30 acres of land along the river frontage of the estate was applied for and sanctioned by the F.M.S. Government making the total area of our estate 670 acres. A further 640 acres were applied for last February, which application is still under Government consideration. It is our intention to have 500 acres of land planted up with rubber by the end of the present year. Most of the land has already been felled and the work of planting will be taken in hand as soon as the rainy season commences. Our property has also the advantage of being favourably situated for transport purposes. The estate is within 7 miles, by water, of the finest natural harbour in the F. M. S., namely Lamut in the Dindings, where deep water can be got right alongside the shore, deep enough for the largest vessels afloat if they called there. The harbour is the most central in the F. M. S., and when the place is opened up there is no doubt but that a large export trade will pass through the Dindings from the States of Perak, Pahang, Kelantan and Trengganu. There is a possibility that Lamut will soon be connected by railway with the principal trade centre of Perak, namely Ipoh, which is within a distance of 40 miles. In such eventuality our property would increase in value very considerably."

Mr. W. Roderick Dorsey, American Vice Consul-General at Shanghai, entertained Consul-General Charles Denby and the members of the Consular staff to tiffin last week, the gathering being made the occasion of a presentation to Mr. Denby in anticipation of his approaching departure from Shanghai. Mr. J. M. Darrah, the American Postal Agent, made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome silver bowl.

PREFERRED JAIL TO EXILE.

It would appear, from the number of Chinese who return to Hongkong before their term of banishment has expired, that Victoria Jail is a better place than China. This sentiment was voiced by a native who was arrested on Wednesday night for the fourth time for returning from banishment. When questioned by the police he told them that he would rather come back to Hongkong and go to jail, than stay away from the Colony. The defendant, by name Ip Chik Fu, was arrested in May 1906 and sentenced to 21 days' hard labour for being a rogue and a vagabond. On expiration of his sentence he was banished to Canton, but was again discovered in the Colony in April of the following year. For disobeying the order of banishment he was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour, and when his term was served he was again banished. He was re-arrested here on February 18th, 1908, and went to jail for another six months' with hard labour after being given four hours' exposure in the stocks. Following this sentence Ip was again despatched to Canton, but love of country, or whatever his failing was, again induced him to return to the Island of Fragrant Streams. On Wednesday night an Indian Warder recognised him promenading the streets. His arrest followed and he appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy yesterday. His Worship, after hearing the evidence, sentenced him to six months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

CANTON MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Municipal Council was held on May 11th when there were present: Messrs. T. E. Griffith (Chairman) P. R. F. Carter, W. G. Saunders, M. Steger and the Secretary (H. W. Hine).

MINUTES.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

BUNGALOW.

The CHAIRMAN minuted that Mr. C. B. Thomas had been instructed to submit estimates for repairs to this property.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, in accordance with the notice dated 28th, ult., the coolies quarters of all compounds on the Concession had been visited by the Council's Inspectors and occupiers had been notified wherever conditions had not been found satisfactory.

A copy of a letter dated 7th. inst. and signed by the Consul-Generals and Consuls of Portugal, The United States of America, Germany and Japan and addressed to H.B.M.'s Acting Consul General was read, in which, while expressing their willingness to assist the Municipal Council in carrying out sanitary measures, as notified, under Bye-Law 24 of the Land Regulations, they request that, in view of the absolute inviolability of Consular premises, their permission should be obtained before such premises be entered by the Municipal Authorities for sanitary inspection. In a covering letter dated 8th inst. H.B.M.'s Acting Consul General requests the Council, pending a ruling from H.M.'s Minister in Peking, to accede to this request, as a matter of courtesy and in consideration of the official positions which these Consuls hold in Shameen.

After discussion, in course of which the Chairman explained that, in his opinion, the Council were bound to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Land Regulations and that, were the foreign Consuls' request acceded to, Municipal control, not only over property of foreign Consuls *de carrière* but of all Merchant Consuls and other alien residents of the Concession of Shameen would be jeopardized, it was unanimously decided to reply to H.M.'s Acting Consul General, asking him to inform the Consuls concerned, that the Council was unable to accede to the request made and that, pending other instructions from H.B.M.'s Minister in Peking, the Council could not depart from the letter of the Land Regulations.

MEDICAL OFFICER.

Dr. Davenport's application for home leave was granted and Dr. Craig was appointed to fill the post during such absence.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The second of the three sister ships under construction for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, has just been launched from the Kawasaki Dockyard at Kobe, and named the *Seattle-Maru*. The first, which was launched about a month ago, was named the *Tacoma-Maru* and the name of the one which is expected to be launched three months hence will be the *Chicago Maru*. They are ships of 6,000 tons gross with a displacement of 11,500 tons. All three will be placed on the Tacoma run. Three more steamers have been ordered from the Mitsu Bishi Yard at Nagasaki.

Both the yards mentioned in the preceding paragraph have just been favoured with Admiralty orders; a 5,000-ton cruiser is to be built in each yard. The vessels are reported by the *Osaka Mainichi* to be cruisers designed to attain a very high speed, with a view to their being utilized as despatch vessels in time of war. This, adds our contemporary, will be a world's record, as no vessels of this size have hitherto been designed for such service.

The *Tacoma-maru* developed on her recent trial trip a speed of more than 14 knots, carrying about 4,000 tons ballast. The *Osaka Jiji* states that next year there will be twelve Japanese steamers on the run between Puget Sound and Hongkong. In the event of an arrangement being made between the N.Y.K. and O.S.K. to dispatch a steamer once a week from each side between Hongkong and the United States, it will be possible for Japanese merchants to dispense with the service of foreign steamers. Such a union between the two companies, says the *Osaka paper*, is calculated to go a long way towards furthering the trade between Japan and the United States.

A special meeting of the shareholders of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha takes place this week to consider the question of security for the debentures, whose issue was approved by the general meeting held in January, 1906, as well as the question of the revision of the articles of association with a view to abolishing or changing the branches of the company. It will be recommended that they be reduced from 40 to 30. The following branch offices are to be opened: Kochi, Takuhama and Tairen, while the following ones are to be closed: Ujima, Sakai, Atsuta, Tokushima, Mitsugahama, Uwajima, Shanghai and Hankow.

The second attempt to sell the wreck of the steamer *Djambi*, which was sunk at Singapore, in collision with a French Mail steamer was not much more successful than the last. At the first auction the highest bid was \$300. Later an offer of \$750 was made if it could be arranged that three months should be given for the removal of the vessel. Permission for this period was granted by the Master Attendant and the ship was accordingly put up again. There was again no eagerness shown to bid, but eventually an offer of \$750 was received and no one bettering this the wreck and gear were knocked down at that figure to Messrs Low Hoon Tiang and See Cheng Ann, the latter of Tanjong Rhu. The ship cost \$75,000 when new. She now lies at a spot at the East end of Tanjong Pagar to which she was removed some weeks ago, and she was offered for sale complete, with whatever cargo there might be in her and with whatever deck fittings have been stored for safe keeping.

Sir Pelham Warren, H.B.M. Consul-General at Shanghai, attended at the rooms of the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association last week for the purpose of handing to Mr. Peter Shearer, second officer of the str. *Hangchow*, the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal and certificate, for saving the life of a Chinese quartermaster, who had fallen overboard at Wuhu. Before the boat that was launched could pick them up Mr. Shearer and his charge had drifted a mile away from the Hangchow. Mr. Shearer in returning his thanks, said that he thought the act had been magnified. It was only what any other British sailor would have done in the circumstances.

There was some trouble with the crew of the *Chiyo-Maru* on her last trip from San Francisco. A stoker deserted while the ship was moored at San Francisco. He was, however, chased and overtaken by a policeman, and a desperate fight ensued, in which the former inflicted injuries on the policeman with a knife. Thereupon the policeman drew a revolver and shot the man dead. The communication further states that six members of the crew of the liner deserted the ship in Honolulu and San Francisco.

The *Minacota* has been fitted with a wireless telegraph apparatus, and according to the American papers it will be "the most powerful set of wireless telegraph instruments ever placed on any steamer in the world."

The *Shipping Gazette* publishes a telegram which it has received from the Hamburg-American Line offices at Hamburg stating that reports as to a contemplated amalgamation with the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company are absolutely unfounded.

The statement is published that the Russian Government intends to extend its mail service to Hongkong and eventually to develop Russian commerce up the West River. Hitherto says the report, the Russian Imperial Mail steamers to the Far East did not call at Hongkong. Now, owing to many enquiries from Odessa merchants, it is the intention of the Russian Government to include Hongkong among the ports of call in the Far East.

SERIOUS FLOODS IN THE WEST RIVER.

Within the past few days there has been a great rise in the West River, and many places along the littoral have been flooded, including Shaoshing, Samshui, Saiwai and Fatshan. Embankments have given way and extensive damage has been done. At Samshui over two hundred houses are reported to have been washed away, and about twenty persons drowned. Over 10,000 persons are stated to be camping in the hills at Samshui, and relief is urgently needed.

Such a sudden flood has not been experienced at Fatshan for thirty years. The city was inundated so rapidly that the shopkeepers lost a great deal of their property. Only one life is reported lost at Fatshan. The flood here subsided on the 12th inst. as quickly it came.

H. E. the Viceroy of Canton has dispatched telegrams to the provincial officials to take measures to afford the sufferers relief and to report to him full details of the flood.

The Self-Government Society and the Red Cross Society have sent people with provisions to many of the districts affected.

CONTEMPLATED IMPROVEMENTS AT HAIPHONG.

We observe that after protracted negotiations the governing authorities of the Colony have authorised the Chamber of Commerce at Haiphong to raise a loan of 1,500,000 francs for the improvement of the facilities of the port, on the security of a *taxe de pège* (toll money). A Haiphong contemporary adds that it is necessary to repeat that the new taxes will not increase the charges on the ships frequenting the harbour or the merchandise imported and exported. A new and better assessment of these charges will permit the execution of the contemplated improvements.

It is pointed out that this decision to improve the facilities of the port synchronises with the completion of the Yunnan railway as far as Mengtze and that this will lead to a considerable increase of traffic at Haiphong which, apart from this, has been growing every year as a result of the economic development of the Colony.

For stealing ninety catties of steel rivets from the Dock Co. Mr. F. A. Hazeland sentenced a Chinese to two months' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

A BISHOPRIC FOR ARCHDEACON BANISTER.

The telegraphic announcement that the Archbishop of Canterbury has elevated the Ven. Archdeacon Banister to the new Bishopric of Hunan will be received by churchmen in Hongkong with mingled feelings—of gratification that he has been selected for the high office, and sincere regret that the appointment terminates his connection with the diocese of Victoria in which he has ministered for the last twelve years. Archdeacon Banister was ordained deacon in 1879, and priest in the following year. He then came out to China, being sent to Foochow, and was for some years located at Ku Chong in charge of a large missionary district with its manifold operations. In 1893 he was given direction of the Church Missionary Society's Theological College at Foochow, and remained there until 1897, when he was appointed Archdeacon of Hongkong by the late Bishop Hoare in 1902. Archdeacon Banister went home early this year on a well-earned rest, and it was thought that his health and advancing years would render it necessary for him to remain at home. We are glad to infer from the announcement made to-day that the Ven. Archdeacon's health happily offers no barrier to his return to the East. Archdeacon Banister appears as active and energetic as a man of forty though his age must be nearer fifty-five. What all who know him will feel was voiced by H. E. the Governor in a public speech a few months ago, when he said that Archdeacon Banister's retirement would mean that this Colony would lose a devoted and able man. He will however have the direction of church affairs over a district which has hitherto formed part of the diocese of Victoria, so we may expect to see Bishop Banister occasionally in Hongkong. The diocese of Hunan, we understand, is formed of the southern portion of that province and the northern half of the province of Kwangsi.

TRADE OF INDIA.

A RECORD TOTAL FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

The sea-borne trade of India in 1907-8 reached the record total of £241,069,399, of which imports were responsible for £119,188,710, and exports for £121,880,689. The total land frontier trade amounted to £10,660,673 imports being £5,717,891, and exports £4,642,782. India's aggregate trade in 1907-8 was the greatest in her history. Below is given a list of the principal countries trading with India, the figures being those for 1907-8. The country from which India draws most of her imports is the United Kingdom, which is an easy first with £57,766,395.

Imports into India in the year 1907-8 from principal countries:—

United Kingdom ...	£57,766,395
British Possessions ...	6,353,230
Java ...	3,870,155
Belgium ...	3,537,733
Germany ...	3,445,799
United States ...	2,158,127
Austria-Hungary ...	1,769,484
Japan ...	1,444,994

The United Kingdom takes more of India's produce and manufactures than any other country, the total value of India's exports to her in 1907-8 being £29,936,526, compared with £31,289,511 in 1906-7. The chief countries which received Indian produce and manufactures in 1907-8 were:—

United Kingdom ...	£29,936,526
British Possessions ...	19,517,054
Germany ...	13,493,690
United States ...	9,012,185
France ...	7,668,826
Belgium ...	6,098,081
Japan ...	5,913,834

It will be observed that the United Kingdom heads the list an easy first both in regard to India's exports and imports.

The assistant compradore of the river steamer *Kwong Tung* proceeded against thirteen natives at the Magistracy on May 12 for stowing away from Canton. They were found guilty and Mr. Hazeland imposed a fine of \$25 on each man, the alternative being one month's imprisonment.

NOTES FROM JAPAN.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT].

Tokyo, April 30th.

SUGAR COMPANY SCANDAL AND LEGAL PROCEDURE.

The causes of the failure of the Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha continue to occupy a great deal of the public attention, and the subject is the text of most homilies nowadays addressed to business men. The exposure of the corruption existing among the directorate of the company and the action of the legal authorities are held to be blessings in disguise, but the good effects of the exposure cannot be said to be realised to the full until the guilty parties have been punished by the law and are behind prison bars. Before this can happen it is possible that three courts will have to pass judgment on the offenders, the court of first instance, the court of appeal, and the final court of appeal, namely, the Court of Cassation. And it is evident that unless the Government determines to expedite the trial of those charged the case will drag on for years. Under the normal procedure of the courts the defendants would be able, quite legally, to so delay hearings and amplify the mass of evidence that the final judgment of the highest court could not be obtained for many years. The defects of Japanese legal procedure in this respect are too well known, and are often referred to in cases in which foreigners are involved. But the Japanese suffer equally from a bad system. There is at present a case dragging on in the Tokyo courts in which both parties are Japanese, the plaintiff a minister of state and the defendant an ordinary citizen. The minister claims a portion of the citizen's land, maintaining that the latter's boundaries encroach upon his own land adjoining. This boundary dispute began in September last. The citizen has put in as evidence a copy of the document of the measurement and registration of his land kept in the city archives, so that legally his claim to the land would appear to be acknowledged by documents duly signed and sealed. Surveyors and judges have paid several visits to the property and there have been several hearings and postponements on pretexts suggesting that everyone concerned has an enormous amount of time to waste. A few weeks ago, however, the judge in charge of the case was promoted to another district, and according to law the new judge has to go over the whole case again, hear all the evidence and resurvey the land. The case is now, after seven months, as far advanced as it was in September, and whichever way judgment goes the losing party will probably appeal. If both sides are determined, we may look for the final settlement of this case at about the time of the Grand Exhibition, when the loser will be involved in ruinous costs, which both sides are at present paying as they go along. Such being the normal course of legal procedure in Japan, it seems premature to talk about the good moral effects of the determined prosecution by the Government of those responsible for the failure the sugar company. They are not yet punished.

PRESENT POSITION OF THE COMPANY.

The shares of the Dai Nippon are not now quoted on 'Change, but dealers continue transactions at prices ranging from 15 to 17 yen. A general meeting of the Company took place on Tuesday, when one of the shareholders attacked Baron Shibusawa, the adviser of the company, and said that when he invested his money in the concern he did so purely on the strength of Baron Shibusawa's reputation, believing that the Baron would not connect himself with a company that was unsound and would know all that was going on. Admitting the naive complaint of this shareholder, it is precisely on such grounds that Baron Shibusawa's conduct in associating himself with the sugar and many other companies in the capacities of adviser and auditor is open to severe criticism. Some papers state that he is connected with no less than forty companies in one capacity or another, and while his name in any company's directorate carries great weight and proves a valuable asset to the company he cannot possibly be of proper service to the company or a protector of the shareholders, for which office he receives an annual fee. Baron Shibusawa's reply to the criticism of the shareholder seems to

be equally naive. He recommended Dr. Sakawa director of the Government Bureau of Agriculture, as president of the company knowing that Dr. Sakawa had no experience business and was not suited to the post. The Baron admits that he did not know the directors, Messrs. Isomura and Akiyama, well (now in prison and alleged to be the arch evil-doers), but put great trust in certain officers who were experts in figures. These frank admissions, of course, reflect credit in the Baron, but they are not likely to console shareholders. The veteran business man's offence has been the common one among advisers and auditors of not doing his duty, and for that the shareholders must suffer. The final result of the meeting was that new shareholders were elected, Baron Shibusawa retaining the post of adviser. Present there are twenty-six persons, directors and other officials of the company, and members of Parliament, in Tokyo Prison awaiting trial in connection with the frauds. The arrested members of the Diet are charged with accepting bribes from the directors, the object of the latter being the nationalisation of an industry of which an almost ruined company was the head.

FOREIGN CAPITAL.

The natural effects of the exposure of the Dai Nippon Sugar Co. and others, including the Dai Nippon Suisan or Marine Products Co. (in connection with which a lieutenant-general is under a cloud) will be to greatly handicap Japanese companies in their efforts to obtain foreign capital. Difficulties in this connection have already been experienced by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha which having failed to raise a foreign loan, has concluded an arrangement with Tokyo and Osaka banks for two millions at an interest which works out at the exorbitant rate of 8.2 per cent., with the company's ships pledged as security. The Keihin Electric Railway (Tokyo-Yokohama) has lately been negotiating with foreigners for a loan, but it is reported that one of the conditions insisted upon by the financiers is that a foreigner shall be included in the Keihin directorate. This is naturally distasteful to a Japanese company. The Tokyo Electric Light Company (paid-up capital 17,260,000 Yen.) has been seeking to float a big loan for a great water-power undertaking. With the nicety in figures that Japanese companies indulge in, it is estimated that when the water-power works are completed the company will be able to earn a dividend of 19.2 on its capital, but up to the present this statement has not convinced the foreigners who have been approached. At a general meeting of shareholders held a day or two ago it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the directors and a decision will be come to in June.

FOREIGNERS AND LAND OWNERSHIP.

Closely connected with this question of foreign capital is the position of foreigners in respect to the ownership of land. The present attitude of the Japanese authorities in this matter is narrow and selfish, but public opinion is growing in favour of placing foreigners on exactly the same footing as the natives, and as soon as this is done we may be sure it will greatly facilitate the entry of much-needed foreign capital. A very important meeting was held last Monday in Yokohama by the foreign land-renters, when the chairman, Mr. H. V. Henson, said he understood that arrangements placing foreigners and Japanese on the same footing with regard to landownership are likely to be made in the new treaties. Treaty revision takes place next year, when there will probably be drastic changes. The object of this land-renters' meeting was to make a formal protest against the payment of certain taxes on leased property, a matter that has been in dispute ever since the abolition of extraterritoriality and the beginning of the operation of the revised treaties. As the Chairman said, a weighty matter of principle was at stake. The resolution of the property leaseholders of Yokohama was conceived in no spirit of hostility to the Japanese people or authorities, and it was emphasised that the whole vexatious trouble had arisen through the loose manner in which the agreement was drawn up in the revised treaties by the Powers concerned. The meeting was held with a view to furnishing the foreigners' diplomatic representatives with their views on the question of leased property taxation, so that the Powers may be prepared to properly represent the

matter before the Japanese authorities next year when the treaties are revised. It is to be hoped this revision will finally remove a cause of dispute between the Japanese municipal authorities and foreigners that has been a thorn in the sides of both parties for years past.

THE BRITISH NAVAL VISIT.

Quite unexpectedly the foreign public here learned that elaborate entertainments were being planned in honour of Admiral the Hon. Hedworth Lambton's Squadron, which arrived at Yokohama yesterday for a prolonged stay. The weather is at present bad, rain every day, and squally, but as soon as it breaks up we may expect to see groups of healthy-looking tars in the streets and tramcars. It does one good to see these men! Strong and lusty, they infect everybody with good humour, but no one so keenly enjoys the jaunt ashore as they themselves. If we do not have good weather the pleasure not only of the sailors but of the people of Japan in these parts will be greatly marred.

THE UNWRITTEN LAW.

HUSBAND EXONERATED FOR SHOOTING HIS WIFE.

Crowds filled the Criminal Court at Saigon on April 22, when Celestin Massol, an engineer, a native of Marseilles, was placed in the dock on the charge of murdering his wife on board the mail steamer *Salazie*. The facts brought out, as stated in Saigon papers, showed that in January last, Massol left Marseilles for Saigon with his wife, who was only 20 years of age, and a baby three months old. At Colombo, a naval doctor bound for China came on board, and took the cabin next to that of the Massol family. Soon the passengers noticed that he was paying attentions to the young woman, but the doctor asserted that up to reaching Singapore, his relations with her went no further than squeezing her hands at a chance meeting in a passage. On the day before reaching Singapore, he happened to see her as he was going into his cabin. They both smiled, and she nodded and came to meet him. The next day, on leaving Singapore, he, on going to his cabin, met her at a stairway. She greeted him, and shortly afterwards he saw her entering his cabin.

DETAILS OF THE TRAGEDY.

At that hour, the husband went to his cabin to change, and at the door he heard his wife's voice in the doctor's cabin. He moved towards it, and saw his wife leaving the cabin in a suspicious manner and going in the opposite direction. The husband rushed into the doctor's cabin, and spoke sharply to him. He then rushed out to find his wife, and found her in a long chair on the bridge, with the baby in her arms. At his call she followed him to their cabin, after giving the baby to the ayah. Husband and wife met in the cabin with the door closed. He made accusations against her which she at first denied, but afterwards admitted the truth of some of the allegations. Upon hearing this the husband lost control of himself, and seized a revolver. His first thought was to shoot the doctor, who had meanwhile taken refuge in a friend's cabin. Unable to find him he returned to his cabin.

THE FATAL SHOTS.

He reproached his wife who commenced to utter mournful cries. Then came the report of a pistol. The wife, wounded in one shoulder, opened the door, and ran out, but fainted and fell. The husband came near and fired four shots into her head with fatal effect. The husband then made another fruitless search for the doctor, but was arrested and disarmed. Enquiries made into the husband's character showed that he is kind-hearted, good-tempered, genial, hardworking, and trustworthy. It came out at the trial that the husband, on his marriage, knew that his wife had not led a blameless life. The judge censured the accused for not looking after the deceased and for allowing her too much liberty on board, where her behaviour aroused remark. Another point made by the judge was that the wife neglected her baby on board.

The husband wept freely when questioned about the details of the crime. His counsel pleaded for him on the ground of gross provocation, and argued that the crime was not done with malice aforethought, but was com-

mitted on the spur of the moment and in the blindness of rage.

The Jury returned at once a verdict of not guilty, and Massol was set free. He had been sobbing all the time, and only left the dock when told to do so by the usher.—*St. Louis Times*.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHANGHAI BRANCH.

The annual general meeting of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association was held on the 7th inst. Mr F. Anderson presided, and from his address on the occasion we take the following extracts:—

PROVINCIAL CONTROL.

Perhaps the most striking development for the time being is the tendency to greater assertion of Provincial "rights" by the Provinces, at the expense of Central Control. The country has heard a great deal about Constitutional Government—it is evident that if the principle of representation is admitted, the local gentry will have a more direct share in the government of the country in the future than in the past; apparently they are not prepared to wait until the new system has been inaugurated, but feeling that they are, even more than formerly, a power in the land, they are disposed to exert authority more and more in the direction in controlling Provincial affairs, and are inclined to regard many Public Works as local affairs, in which they are entitled to take a hand, even although the Central Government may be providing the funds out of foreign loans. The Provincial Administrations seem inclined to encourage this movement, in the absence of a united Government under a strong leader at Peking, and perhaps to this cause, as much as to any other, may be attributed the unsatisfactory control of railway funds, the mismanagement of the currency and the impediments thrown in the way of developing the mining resources of the country. There may be much to say in favour of local management of purely local affairs, there is certainly a great deal to say against too great or too sudden change in an old established and complicated system of Government like that built up in China: many of us would only be too glad to say "why not leave well alone?" if we could only feel that there were no dangers ahead, but although it is disheartening to find it so difficult to get anything done, we believe that we are doing good work in quietly and temperately making representation to those in authority when we feel that British interests are likely to be affected by the course of events, and in saying British interests it would be difficult to point to an instance in which British interests conflict with the best interest of China herself.

HANKOW-CANTON RAILWAY.

Take for instance the most recent bone of contention—the friction arising out of the Hankow-Canton Railway loan negotiations. Can any one who has the best interests of China at heart say, that in discouraging her from borrowing more foreign money, except under conditions which stipulate that the funds will be applied to the purpose for which they are borrowed, we are not acting the part of real friends? We have seen cases in which part of the money borrowed for reproductive works has been diverted into non-productive channels, and with this experience in our minds, we have tried to urge upon the Chinese Authorities that it is unsound, if not dangerous, to add indefinitely to their foreign obligations on those lines. Knowing that at current rates of exchange it costs China about £1s. 60,000,000 a year to meet her foreign obligations, that under her present fiscal system her revenue is not elastic, that her currency has become disorganised and is in urgent need of measures calculated to restore it to a sound basis, it is no act of true friendship to China to make it easy for her to borrow money on a large scale, under conditions which encourage her to add to her liabilities without producing corresponding assets. We believe that China has ample resources to meet all her present indebtedness, but unless salutary reforms are seriously taken in hand a time may arise in which this country may find itself confronted with financial troubles—perhaps at some

great national crisis, when all her resources and strength would be wanted. The contention that it is interfering with China's "sovereign rights" to hypothecate loans for special purposes seems to us to be quite misleading. No British financier has the slightest desire to interfere with China's sovereign rights; in the absence of constitutional Government, as understood in Western countries, he looks upon the loan agreement as a substitute for a Chinese Act of Parliament, under which the purposes for which loans are negotiated are specifically laid down: he expects these conditions to be adhered to. There are two policies: one to lend China as much money as she likes to borrow, and care nothing about what becomes of it, the other to lend for definite specific purposes, under agreements that the funds will be spent only for these purposes. We fear that with the divided control which prevails in China the first policy may lead to financial trouble that financial trouble means political trouble, which in turn would mean for China an attitude of "on the knee." The second policy will enable her to develop and add to her resources, will strengthen her credit and help her to stand erect and firm in time of trouble.

INCREASE IN IMPORT DUTIES.

We understand that the Chinese Government has repeatedly called attention to Article 8 of the Mackay Treaty and has asked that a meeting of the principal Powers concerned be convened for the purpose of seeing what steps can be taken to carry into execution the increase in the Import Tariff agreed to in principle in 1902. Little or no progress has been made in the matter, mainly because Article 8 is only one of many articles in that Treaty which have been allowed to remain in abeyance, and while it may be necessary to consider this question before long it, can only be claimed in fairness that Article 8 hinges on other Articles. We have pointed out that it may prove to be quite illusory to rely on a great increase in Import Duty producing a corresponding increase in revenue, if likin and other levies, whether under a new name or not, are allowed to continue.

There is a point beyond which taxation tends to curtail consumption. If this happens under the proposed increase the volume of trade will be smaller, many means of employment will be taken away, life will become a harder struggle and the Government will not receive the revenue they expect. If China is serious in abolishing likin without replacing it by some substitute, she has a very difficult task before her; we do not desire to put obstacles in her way, as we know what great efforts will be necessary to bring about the fundamental changes stipulated for in the Mackay Treaty. All these changes a whole would be for her own advantage, but perhaps as they constitute a perfection unattainable under existing conditions. But we should all welcome evidence of a desire to make these changes.

THE EMPEROR'S FUNERAL.

PEKING, May 2nd.

For many week past, one has been able to watch the preparations being made for the Imperial Funeral which took place yesterday. The wall of the Forbidden City, east of the Coal Hill, has long been lined with tents, erected for workmen busy constructing a raised road, and during last week or so, the roads north and east of the Imperial City, and the one along which the procession was to pass on its way from the Pingdsemén to the Tombs, have been kept clear of traffic. As the day approached, applications for tickets of admission to the Pavilion at the Hsi Szu Pilon began to pour into the Legations. Many people, I believe, had to be turned away, for the tickets were, naturally, limited, but all who were unable to get them had only to go outside the Pingdsemén where, by special decree, they were allowed to witness the procession. The representatives of the various Legations were given a Pavilion inside the Houmèn, close to the spot where the late Emperor was lying.

The Pavilion at the Hsi Szu Pilon, where I saw the procession, had this advantage over the one erected inside the Houmèn, that the cortege, by the time it reached us, had assumed the form in which, I suppose, it is, at this moment, slowly moving towards the hills. Many people, I know, were disappointed when they heard that the

representatives of the Foreign Diplomatic Body would not accompany the procession all the way to the Pingdsemén. On what, quite, their disappointment was based, I do not see. The presence of foreign officials was desirable certainly in so far as it indicated sympathy and respect. From the point of view of picturesque-ness, there was nothing that it could add.

For some days there was considerable doubt as to the time fixed for the ceremony. There were rumours of a very early start, whereupon large numbers made up their minds that "the thing wasn't worth going to." More optimistic views, however, began to prevail as ten, and even eleven o'clock were suggested as probable hours and when another half hour was actually gained, enthusiasm became quite marked, with the result that by mid-day the Pavilion at the Hsi Szu Pilon was crowded. On this point I should like to speak of with the utmost severity. A large number of people brought cameras and used them with deplorable vulgarity and lack of feeling.

It must, I suppose, have been well after one o'clock when the procession reached the Hsi Szu Pilon. It was headed by a body of troops, Cavalry, mounted Infantry and Infantry. Next came some two dozen camels and a mob of white pack-ponies with their burdens concealed beneath cloths of imperial yellow. These were followed by men, mounted on the shaggiest of ponies, and dressed in the red cloaks to be seen at all Chinese funerals, bearing red poles with devices which I wished I understood. Against this was contrasted a great splash of yellow as the body of Lama priests moved past us in their yellow coats. Then came bearers, dressed in red, like the men on the ponies, bearing canopies of purple, yellow, red and white and banners of the same splendid colours, and behind them two large yellow chairs, closely followed by more canopies rivalling those that had preceded them. After these, drove Prince Ching in a closed carriage, surrounded by a large body-guard such as one sees daily in the streets of Peking. At this point there was a short gap, and then white discs of paper, cut to resemble copper cash and flung high into the air announced the approach of the hearse. It was borne by one hundred and twenty-eight bearers, whose red dresses contrasted vividly with its brilliant yellow, and after it came another body of troops and then a crowd of carts.

So the procession ended, and passed, and this bald description of it can give little idea of its brilliance. For, as in the case of the arrival of the Dalai Lama, so in this, what fascinated and overcame one was the splendour and blaze of colours, and these the pen cannot reproduce. But I think I could turn fanatic, in my insistence on their excellence. They moved me yesterday, as they did last Autumn, like music when wave after wave of sound toss and dash against the soul! I do not exaggerate when I say this. The colours of the procession yesterday were magnificent; they were worth going a hundred miles to see. Those canopies and flags, those chairs, that hearse, they were wonderful, a rainbow fit indeed to circle an Emperor journeying to the darkness of the grave. I deny, too, what hundreds of people would say that these colours are "barbaric." The Chinese are right. They bury the greatest of their dead with the greatest of all earthly splendours, the colours of the sunset.—By a Correspondent in the *N.-C. Daily News*.

THE SIBERIAN MAIL.

From the *N.-C. Daily News*:—The alteration in the time of dispatch of the trans-Siberian mails should be a distinct advantage to the business community and general public alike. The mail, via Tairen and the South Manchurian Railway—which, in point of time, is the quicker route by three days—will close every Saturday evening, the steamer leaving early on the following Sunday morning. This is a reversion to the time table of the Chinese Eastern Railway in force before the War.

There will, besides, be three mails weekly in place of two, as heretofore, a supplementary service being undertaken by the *Saikio Maru* which will leave every Thursday, enabling the mail to reach Harbin only two days in arrears of that carried via Vladivostok dispatched from Shanghai on the Saturday previous.

CURRENCY IN CHINA.

MEMORANDUM BY SIR CHARLES DUDGEON.

In December last the following Memorandum, prepared by Sir Charles Dudgeon, Chairman of the London Committee of the China Association was submitted to H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs:—

Had Lord Palmerston interested himself in the question of Chinese currency, he might have propounded an even better conundrum than that of "What is a Pound?" and flooded the House of Commons (and everyone else) with the question of "What is a Tael?"

In a report upon the "Revenue and Expenditure of the Chinese Empire," prepared by Mr. George Jamieson, late Consul-General at Shanghai, he states that he was explicitly informed by a Chinese Official that (for revenue purposes anyway) "a tael was not a tael in the ordinary sense of the word, but was such a sum as would enable the local authorities to lay down a tael of the standard weight and purity in Peking, and, consequently, included a meltage fee, loss on melting, freight, and costs of transmission, and general office expenses."

And for currency purposes, the information given to Mr. Jamieson is pretty nearly correct also, for there are very few people in this world who can say what sort of a tael any given tael really is—what is its weight, its fineness silver, and what its exchange value.

A currency tael may perhaps be defined as a varying weight of silver of varying fineness, the variations of both weight and fineness being governed by topical conditions and custom, as well as by the nature of the transactions in which it is employed; for the tael weight current for the purpose of buying (say) a bale of cotton goods, may be, and indeed often is, quite different to that required for buying a picul of salt. A good illustration of this is given by Mr. Morse in his recent work, "The Trade and Administration of the Chinese Empire," in which he instances the conditions obtaining at Chungking, in Szechuen, where the taels in use are of three different degrees of fineness, with about a score of different weights, so that there are "at least sixty currencies possible in this town alone!" The chaos of the tael is not, however, the least part of the currency confusion, for there are current in China "nineteen different kind of dollars of different exchange values, as well as newly-coined taels, Chinese rupees, and an infinite variety of copper coins and brass cash," the debased subsidiary coinage being issued, though not accepted, at its face value by the Government issuing it (Pekin telegram to the "Times," 19th September, 1908). The chaos of currency conditions are well summed up by Mr. Morse, in his work referred to above:—"In China the currency is at the top a weight pure and simple, in the middle a combination of weight and token currency, and at the bottom a coin which stands on its own feet, and neither receives support from, nor absolutely gives it to, any other unit in the series. At the top is the tael (call it the ounce, and it will be better realised), in which payments are made in precisely the same way that delivery is taken of a lot of silver bars. Then comes the dollar, which, though a coin, is nowhere legal tender, and of which the specimens from the Chinese mints are inscribed, not generally dollar or 'Yuen,' but merely 72 hundredths of a tael; though so inscribed, dollars of silver are nowhere fixed in terms of taels of silver, but are quoted at rates which vary from day to day according to the demand and supply, fluctuating within a range of six to more per cent. Then come subsidiary coins, fractional to the dollar, but subject to a fluctuating rate of exchange, such that the dollar may this year change for 110 cents, and next year for only 95 cents in small coin. Next comes the copper cent, inscribed at the mints of some Provinces as worth 'one hundredth of a dollar,' and of others as worth 'ten cash,' but never treated as correlated to the dollar; whether considered in its relation to the dollar or to the cash, it is a token coin worth intrinsically less than half its nominal value. Last comes the copper cash, the currency of the people. Here we have a series of non-related currencies, each unit of which is a state of unstable equilibrium,

fixed neither in itself nor in relation to other units."

A most serious question of the moment is that of the new copper coinage, for it has to be borne in mind that copper is the coin of the people, and that consequently any juggling with the copper coinage strikes at the very foundation upon which the trade of the Empire is based. The last three or four years have witnessed a most far-reaching revolution in the copper coinage of China, through the opening of provincial mints over the length and breadth of the Empire, the main industry of which has been the coinage of the ten cash copper pieces above referred to. What the actual amount of such issue has been it is impossible to say with any degree of accuracy, but an estimate, believed to be conservative, which has been prepared by Sir Alexander Hosie for the years 1905-06 puts the issue at the enormous amount of 9,000,000,000 coins. The issue of this new coin of ten cash on an honest basis, was welcomed as a move in the right direction towards a stable copper coinage intended to gradually supplant the old cumbersome copper cash, and in the beginning the coins were honest, the discs being mainly imported from Europe of a purity of 95 parts copper, 4 parts zinc and 1 part tin—the same, in fact, as the British penny. It was, not long, however, before the cupidity of the officials was aroused, very inclined thereto by the heavy calls made upon the provinces for the service of the "Boxer" indemnity; in any case, however, discs speedily began to be imported of lower and still lower standard, until the intrinsic value of the coin was depreciated to less than half of its face value. The profits to the provincial mints were immense—hence no doubt the enormous proportions which the issue assumed—but far more enormous has been the loss to the people, for not only have they had to bear the loss of the depreciation on the new coins, but as all previous issues are affected, there is the loss of the depreciation on those issues to be faced as well. To show what this depreciation means, it needs only to be stated that whereas in 1905-06 (when the minting of 10 cash pieces commenced) the cash exchange of the Shanghai tael was between 1.100 and 1.120; to-day it is 1.68, while a recent mail from China advises that in Hankow the cash exchange of the Hankow tael (Sh. Tl. 1.02) has risen 1.885.

Seeing that these ten cash pieces are now circulating at about their actual value, the profit on minting them has disappeared, and the deluge of spurious coins has been checked. In these circumstances a new expedient has been hit upon for "raising the wind" in the form of the issue of native bank tael and dollar notes, in a few instances issued by recognised banks of the local governments, but in others by merely private institutions; these issues are not authorised by the Imperial Government, and they are neither limited, nor have they any proper cash reserves behind them. Appended to this Memorandum is a statement received from Shanghai regarding this note issue; the statement lays no claim to be complete or authoritative. "It has been compiled from the most reliable native sources available, and there is every reason to believe that the ramifications of the note issues are even more wide-spread than they are represented to be therein."

Shanghai further states that "in addition to the large circulation of notes representing taels and dollars, there have been issued within the last two years an immense number of notes representing copper cash; we have been unable to get any details as to the amounts issued by the individual banks, but the estimates made of the circulation in the various provinces are said to be on a conservative basis. Not only have between nine and ten thousand millions of ten cash pieces been struck by the mints, but about fifty-six million taels worth of copper cash notes have been issued during the same period, which at 1,650 cash to the tael would represent over another ten thousand millions of ten cash pieces. The estimate is given as follows:—

Year of Issue.	Province.	Amount.
1906	Manchuria	Tls. 30,000,000
1907	Hupei	Tls. 10,000,000
1908	Shantung	Tls. 7,000,000
1908	Canton	Tls. 5,000,000
1908	Hunan	Tls. 4,000,000

Shanghai's comment is as follows:—"It seems almost incredible that a country with a sound financial reputation such as China has

enjoyed in the past, should permit reckless dealing of this nature with the currency of the country, more especially with the money of the millions, the standard in which wages and all small retail transactions are settled, but so it is; . . . if stringent measures are not taken to control these issues, China will eventually be face to face with all evils attendant upon a large portion of her currency being composed of inconvertible paper."

The recommendation of remedies, in presence of the confusion now prevailing in financial questions, is a matter of extreme difficulty; some hope for the situation may, however, perhaps be found in the belief expressed by Shanghai "that Chinese bankers and officials are becoming more and more amenable to foreign advice, owing to the stringency of the native money market." Such advice is offered by Shanghai in the following suggestions:

(1) The issue of an Imperial Edict, prohibiting any further issue of bank notes, until regulations controlling the terms of issue shall have been published.

(2) Severe penalties to be imposed for disobedience, which should be made a criminal offence.

(3) Regulations based on the experience of foreign banks should be drawn up forthwith.

(4) Issues now in circulation, which do not conform to the regulations should be withdrawn within a specified period, on penalty of the issuing banks being closed or wound up.

(5) The immediate appointment of a Board of Currency. (The engagement of the services of at least one foreign expert adviser would be of great advantage to China.)

(6) The appointment, under the Board of Currency, of an Imperial Master of the Mint, who should have control of all the mints in the Empire. (The interest and co-operation of Chinese banks which have maintained the standard of sycee in the past, might be enlisted in the management of the mints.)

(7) Pending the establishment of the control of the mints, the further issue of subsidiary silver coins and copper cash to be suspended, until they circulate at par; the par rate for copper cash to be definitely fixed.

The Imperial Decree issued on the 5th October last, ordaining the introduction of a uniform silver currency throughout the Chinese Empire is a welcome (though tardy) recognition by China of her obligation to "provide for a uniform national coinage" in terms of Article II. of the Shanghai Treaty of 1902; had China paid earlier attention to this Treaty obligation it is probable that of the currency chaos which has arisen in the past few years might have been obviated. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Decree will not be allowed to remain a dead letter, but that it is an admission of the necessity for immediate action, and expresses a real earnestness of intention to rectify the almost hopeless confusion into which currency matters of China have been allowed to drift.

The provisions of the Edict will, no doubt, meet with general approval, but it is to be remarked that no indication is given whether the new coins are to be issued solely from mints under the control of the Board of Finance—a very necessary proviso—nor is any mention made of a fixed ratio between the new coinage and the copper currency—another matter of first importance. It is understood that both points have attracted the attention of His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

The arguments in the Memorial which accompanies the Edict, favouring the adoption of the K'up'ing Tael as the national coin in preference to the dollar, do not appear to be very convincing; the opinion in the provinces is admittedly divided, and it is difficult to understand such pleas in favour of the tael, as that from the point of view of China's national dignity she ought to try to stand alone, that she cannot afford to throw away her sovereign rights—(how are they affected?)—in order to gratify the wishes of others, nor change the tradition of the country for the convenience of the open ports or trading marts. While it is hardly to be supposed that the open ports will meet with much sympathetic consideration, it might reasonably be suggested that the interest of China's own trading marts is a matter of prime domestic importance.

There is much force in the argument that the higher standard unit will tend to increase the

cost of living; as Shanghai points out "the effect will be more plainly felt in expenditure involving small sums such as 5 to 10 cents—translating these sums into 4 cands and 8 cards will not be convenient in actual practice." It is, however, no doubt true that (as stated in the Memorial) the "bulk of the people in their daily life mostly rely upon the copper currency." A coinage is that the exchange between the dollar point in favour of the adoption of a dollar and the cash might be conveniently fixed at the old normal ratio of 1 to 1,000, whereas the cash exchange of the K'up'ing Tasl (at the same rate) works out at the inconvenient figure of about 1,482.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE FAR EAST.

The Civil Service Estimates for the year ending March 31, 1909, are now issued, and we give below details concerning the votes relating specially to China. The figures enclosed in parentheses are last year's votes, and are given for purposes of comparison. Where no comparisons are made the figures are the same as last year.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR BUILDINGS.

Under the heading of "New Works, Alterations, Additions, and Purchases (including Furniture in connection therewith)," are the following votes. China, Japan, and Korea:—Changsha: Erection of new Consulate, £1,000; Mukden: Erection of new Consulate, including residences for Assistants, stables, &c., £7,000; Newchwang: Installation of electric light and bells, £160; Peitaiho: Erection of summer quarters for the Peking Legation, including furniture (re-vote £900), £3,000; Peking: Improving water supply to residences, £550; Peking: Erection of cowshed, £180; Peking: Erection of house for Chinese Secretary, £500; Peking: Extension of electric lighting, £500; Tientsin: Addition to offices, £100; Tokyo: Electric light installation in Embassy Compound and Students' Quarters, £350; Yokohama: Electric light installation in offices and Assistants' residences, £100; Söul: Improving water supply, £250; Acquisition of new sites in China, Japan, and Korea, £1,000. The vote in this section of £10 for the maintenance and repair of cemeteries in China, Japan, Korea, and Siam is included in a general vote for the maintenance of cemeteries in foreign countries.

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

China—(partly repayable from Indian revenues).—Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, £4,500; Councillor, £800; Chinese Secretary, £1,000; Chaplain, £200; Commercial Attaché £1,000 and £167 for rent. Japan.—Ambassador £5,000; Councillor, £800; Japanese Secretary, £1,000, including an allowance of £100 a year for superintending the studies of students; Commercial Attaché £900 and £100 for rent.

From the statement showing the distribution of Second and Third Secretaries in His Majesty's Embassies and Legations abroad on Dec. 1, 1908, we note there are two Second Secretaries and one Third Secretary in China, and two Second Secretaries in Japan, the salaries and allowances of whom are not stated. Houses are provided in all the above cases except for Chaplain at Peking and Commercial Attachés, and are taken into account in another vote for rents and taxes.

THE CONSULAR SERVICE.

China.—The total estimates for the Services in China are £67,865 (£67,879). The votes are as follows:—Salaries, allowances, and wages, £56,267 (£55,624); outfits, and travelling, £4,750 (£5,000); rent allowances, £2,000 (£1,900); postage, £500; incidental expenses, £2,100 (£2,500); prison expenses, witnesses, deportations, &c., £800 (£600); medical attendance, £1,423 (£1,730); relief of distressed British subjects, £25.

China.—Peking: Surgeon, £800. The votes under the heading Shanghai "Court and Consulate-General" are as follows:—Chief Judge £1,800; Consul-General and Registrar of Shipping, £1,500; Assistant Judge, £1,200; Vice-Consul, £600 (with a local allowance of £100); Crown Advocate, £400; Registrar, £515 (£505); Chief Clerk, £310 (£305); Assistant Clerk, £210; Marshal, £220; Usher, £180 (£175). Total, £7,035 (£7,015). Then come the votes for the

Consuls, as follows:—Amoy, £800; Antung (Vice-Consul), £600; Canton, £1,200; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600, with a local allowance of £100; Chang-sha, £800; Chefoo, £800; Heng-tu (Consul-General), £900; Chinanfu, £800; Chinkiang, £800; Chung-king (Vice-Consul), £600; Foochow, £1,000; Hangchow, £800; Hankow, £1,100, and £100 personal; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600, with a local allowance of £100; Ichang, £800; Kinkiang, £800; Kiungchow and Pakhoi, £800; (Consul-General), £900, with a local allowance of £100 and a further temporary allowance of £50; Nanking, £800; Newchwang, £800; Ningpo (Vice-Consul), £600; Swatow, £800; Tengyueh, £800; Tientsin (Consul-General), £1,000, with local allowance of £200; ditto (Vice-Consul), £600, with local allowance of £100; Wuchow, £800; Wuhu, £800; Yunnan-fu, £900, with local allowance of £100; Tsingtau (Consular Agent), with fee allowance of £18. Total, £23,668 (£21,700). There are also votes for Assistants and Students as follows:—Twelve first class at £400 a year each, £4,800; fifteen second-class at £350 a year each, £5,250; Interpreters' allowances to Assistants, eight at £100 and nine at £50 a year each, £1,250 allowance to assistant employed in Chinese Secretary's office, £200; allowance to assistant as accountant at Peking, £200; allowance to senior assistant in Chancery at Peking, £100; ditto to assistant in Mixed Court, Shanghai, £250 (£150); ditto to assistant in Land Office, Shanghai, £150; ditto to assistant in Shipping Office, Shanghai, £50; ditto assistant in charge, Pakhoi, £100; twenty-one student interpreters at £200 a year each, £4,200; prizes for ditto, £150; and to provide allowances to make up students' salaries to £300 a year each whilst serving as assistants, £1,300. There are the usual votes for teachers, writers, or linguists, constables, boatmen, porters, coolies, and others employed on public service at the different Consulates. The total amount for salaries allowances, and wages is £56,267 (£56,824), but from this a deduction of £1,000 is made on account of savings by vacancies, &c., leaving as the final total, £55,267 (£55,624). The vote for outfit and travelling, including allowances for passage for Consular officers, student interpreters, and others in £4,750 (£5,000); rent allowances, £2,000 (£1,900); and postage, £500. In this section there is also, under the heading of "Incidental Expenses," a vote of £1,289 (£1,548) for allowances assigned to the different Consulates for office contingencies, including extra boat hire, boatmen, coolie hire, &c., and £184 (£234), as allowances for purchase of coal. There is, in addition, a vote of £812 (£958) for incidental expenses of mission and of Court and Consulates not included in fixed office allowances, making a total for incidental expenses of £2,285 (£2,740). From this £185 is deducted for printing, stationery, postage, and prison expenses, paid from fixed allowances, but chargeable under other sections, leaving £2,100 (£2,500). The remaining votes are: Prison expenses, witnesses, deportations, &c., £800 (£600); medical attendance, £1,423 (£1,730); relief of distressed British subjects, £25.

Philippine Islands.—The votes are—Consul-General at Manila, £1,000, with £150 local allowance (not pensionable), and £400 office expenses; Vice-Consul, £500, with £150 local allowance (not pensionable); Vice-Consul at Cebu, £28, fee allowances; Vice-Consul at Iloilo, £100 for office expenses.

Cochin China.—There is a vote of £600 for the Consul at Hanoi, with a local allowance (not pensionable) of £100, and office expenses, £150, and for the Vice-Consul at Saigon fee allowances £25.

Wladivostock.—The vote is for Vice-Consul, £410, with £100 local allowances and £25 office expenses.

GRANTS IN AID OF LOCAL REVENUE.

Under the above head there is a vote of £4,400 (£10,000) for Wei-hai-wei, required in connection with the territory during the year commencing April 1, 1909.

SPECIAL MISSIONS.

Under this head there is a vote of £2,000 for the International Opium Commission at Shanghai.

PENSIONS.

Under the details of increase and diminution in the superannuation and retired allowances between Dec. 1, 1907, and Nov. 30 1908, we note

the following changes relating to the Far East:—Retiring allowances through ill-health: W. J. Kenny, Consul-General, Manila, Philippine Islands, £666 13s. 4d.; M. Hughes, Consul, Newchwang, £285, 5s. 6d.; H. F. Brady, Consul, Chefoo, £622 4s. 5.; L. C. Hopkins, Consul-General, Tientsin, £855 11s. 1d. The pension of £622 4s. 5d. granted to Dr. S. W. Bushell has ceased through death.

IMPERIAL WEDDING IN JAPAN.

TIME-HONOURED CEREMONIAL AT TOKYO.

An official announcement was issued on the 29th ultimo to the effect that the wedding between Prince Kitashirakawa and Princess Kane, seventh daughter of his Majesty the Emperor, had taken place on that day.

The bridegroom rose at an early hour, says the *Japan Chronicle* and attired in the old Court ceremonial dress left his residence at Kioicho in a carriage specially sent from the Imperial Household, attended by Captain Ichinohe, aide-de-camp, followed in other carriages by Mr. Yamanouchi, a Master of Ceremonies in the Imperial Household, and Mr. Yamabe, an official in the Imperial Household, and escorted by a troop of cavalry. Arrived at the Imperial Palace, the bridegroom entered the Imperial Sanctuary, the bride arriving a few minutes later. Her toilet had been completed by five o'clock, and at 6.30 she had eaten the customary *mame no gohan* (rice mixed with beans) eaten on these occasions, and, attired in old ceremonial costume, left her residence at Takanawa for the Imperial Palace.

At 9 a.m. the wedding ceremony took place in the presence of about 200 dignitaries, amongst whom were their Imperial Highnesses Princes Arisugawa and Kanin, Prince and Princess Higashi-Fushimi, Prince and Princess Takeda, and Princes Asaka and Higashi-Kuni. While the music was being played, the door of the Imperial cenotaph was opened, and the customary offerings presented to the memory of the Imperial ancestors. The marriage service was then begun, and the Chief Ritualist Iwakura read an address, after which the bridegroom read an address in which he announced his marriage to the Imperial ancestors. Then the Chief Ritualist presented a cup of sacred *sake* first to the bridegroom, and then to the bride. Simultaneously an Imperial salute was fired by a battery of artillery on the Aoyama parade-ground. This concluded the ceremony, and the newly-married couple proceeded to the Palace, where, in the first Grape Hall, the Prince changed his dress for the uniform of an artillery ensign, while the Princess donned a *robe de cour*. The couple were then received together in audience by their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, who congratulated them on their union.

At 11 a.m. the bride and bridegroom left the Palace for their new residence at Takanawa, where a further ceremony was performed in the presence of relatives and officials. Subsequently the newly married couple received congratulations from their personal friends. At 5.50 p.m. their Majesties the Emperor and Empress gave a dinner in honour of the occasion, to which were invited, besides the newly married couple, the Crown Prince and Princess and all the Imperial family, high officials and Peers, and foreign representatives and their wives. In due course his Majesty the Emperor offered a cup of *sake* to the bride and bridegroom, in accordance with old custom, when the gathering gave *banzai* in honour of the Imperial House. At 7.15 p.m. their Majesties retired and the gathering dispersed, the newly married couple proceeding to their new residence at Takanawa. Those present at the dinner received a silver sweetmeat bowl as a souvenir of the occasion.

Count Sasaki, a Privy Councillor, who was entrusted with the care of bringing up Princesses Tsune and Kane, has been created a Marquis in recognition of the completion of his services, now that both Princesses have been married. It may be mentioned that Princess Tsune was married last year to Prince Takeda and has given birth to a son. On the day of the wedding just celebrated Count Sasaki received ¥20,000, and Countess Sasaki ¥5,000 in honour of the occasion, and in recognition of their services in bringing up the Princesses entrusted to their care.

TENNIS MATCH AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The annual match between the Hongkong Club and the Ladies Recreation Club, twice postponed on account of the weather, was played on the 12th inst. on the courts of the Hongkong Cricket Club. The match attracted a large attendance, and the result was a win for the L.R.C. by 64 games to 44. The players were: Hongkong—Messrs Anderson, T. A. Whyte, R. A., T. E. Pearce, P. H. Klimanek, G. B. Satterthwaite, and Capt. Brierley. L.R.C.—Messrs H. Hancock, C. A. Carr, H. R. Phelps, Mr. R. Harris, H. S. Thompson, and Capt. Murray.

The scores are:

L. R. C.		HONGKONG CLUB.	
Carr and Hancock	10	Brierley and Satterthwaite	2
do	8	Klimanek and Pearce	4
do	7	Anderson and Whyte	5
Thompson and Murray	6	Brierley and Satterthwaite	6
do	7	Anderson and Whyte	5
do	3	Pearce and Klimanek	9
Harris and Phelps	7	Pearce and Klimanek	5
do	8	Brierley and Satterthwaite	4
do	8	Anderson and Whyte	5
	64		44

At the close the prizes won during the tournament were presented by Miss Rowe. Before that lady was called upon to perform her task Mr. F. Maitland congratulated the Ladies Recreation Club on their splendid win that afternoon and went on to remark that the tournament just finished had been successful in every way—in respect of the record entries, very fine games, and large attendances, especially of ladies whom they were always glad to see. Thanks were due to the sub-committee for their work and also to their courteous secretary, Mr. Lowe, for the manner in which the tournament had been run. He wished to congratulate Mr. Carr, who, starting from the back line, had won the singles handicap "A" class and who had again won the championship. They were disappointed that the match between Mr. Carr and Captain Beasley was not played but in the circumstances the committee could not do other than award the championship to Mr. Carr. They regretted this as they were sure that their meeting would have resulted in a very fine struggle. The military members were also to be congratulated inasmuch as they had carried away nearly half of the prizes which was a very high percentage considering the number of entries. He also congratulated Mr. Hickling who had won the "B" class single championship and who with Mr. Hagen had won the doubles handicap.

Miss Rowe then presented the prizes won in the tennis tournament and in the raquets tournament, and at the close was presented with a floral souvenir of the occasion.

Mr. D. Braidwood, in the absence of the President of the Hongkong Cricket League, then presented the shield to Mr. Maitland on behalf of Hongkong "B" team. He commented on the fact that greater interest was being shown in cricket, and pointed out that there were nine clubs in the League this year, a number which would likely be increased to ten next season. The Buffs arrived too late to enter last season, but they would enter next Season. He said that great credit was due to the secretary Mr. Asger for his work on behalf of the league, and remarked that the shield was the visible reward of the winners, but the real reward was in playing the game (applause). The record of the winners was remarkable, as during the season they had played sixteen matches, won fifteen and lost one. They had not drawn a single game. They ran away at the commencement but later in the season they were menaced by the Civil Service, whom he wished to congratulate on their fine performance. In conclusion

he said they wished to thank the members of the Hongkong Club for the increasing interest they had taken in league cricket and asked Mr. Maitland to take possession of the shield.

Mr. Maitland did so and thanked Mr. Braidwood on behalf of the "B" team for his kind remarks. They would do, he said, all they could to help cricket in the colony and mentioned that they had sent invitations to Singapore and Shanghai to send teams here. In their selection of a team to meet them the Club had in view the representation of the colony and not merely of the club itself.

Cheers concluded the proceedings.

SHANGHAI RACES.

THE RACE FOR THE CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES.

We take the following account of this race. From the *N.C. Daily News* report:—

THE CHAMPION SWEEPSTAKES.—Value Tls. 800. Second Pony, Tls. 200. Third Pony, Tls. 100. For all China Ponies Winners at this Meeting. Weight for inches as per scale. No Entrance Fee. One mile and a quarter.

Mr Ballnus's spot. Gemini	155 lbs	1
(Mr Moller)	155 lbs	2
Mr Durgor's dun China (Mr Jones)	155 lbs	3
Mr Beverley's grey Worcester (Mr Linton)	158 lbs	0
Messrs Toeg and Speelman's grey Wye (Mr J. A. Hayes)	152 lbs	0
Mr Saxo-Borussia's brown Pegasus (Mr Vida)	161 lbs	0
Mr Fash's grey Marbles (Mr Alderton)	161 lbs	0
Mr Bailey's grey Moriak (Mr N Poulsen)	152 lbs	0
Mr Argentino's grey El Animal (Mr King)	158 lbs	0
Mr Noegi's ches. Fabulus (Mr Schnorr)	158 lbs	0
Mr Beverley's black Brockton (Mr Johnstone)	155 lbs	0
Mr MacWatts's grey Russley (Mr Cumming)	158 lbs	0

Twenty-one ponies qualified for the Champion Sweepstakes, but only eleven faced the starter. Moriak and Gemini were most popularly favoured in the paddock. The money on the race was much in excess of the usual amount and the Champion Cash Sweep totalled \$47,140 of which \$27,808 was allotted as the first prize, \$7,945 as the second, and \$3,972 as the third. A tremendous crowd watched the race with keen interest. The field was sent away to a grand start and China took the lead, with Gemini second, Fabulus third, Moriak fourth and Worcester fifth. In this order they galloped past the Press Box, and until the Horse Bazaar was reached it was impossible to see the riders' colours for clouds of dust. At the Bazaar, China was still making the running, but Moriak had gone up to second place, Gemini being third and Fabulus fourth. Worcester began to make up ground very quickly at Loongfei, but on entering the Back Straight China had a lead of two lengths from Moriak, Worcester having come up to a good third, with Gemini lying handy fourth and Russley on his quarter. Fabulus came next. Along the Back Straight China's lead was reduced and Moriak got within a length and a half of even terms, with Worcester galloping into third place, Gemini a close fourth, Fabulus fifth, Wye sixth. As the runners disappeared at Probst's, the last-named order still ruled, but when the half-mile post was reached China had gone away two and a half lengths in front of Moriak, Worcester being third, Gemini fourth, Fabulus fifth. Pegasus now began to show up promisingly and at the Monument he was on better terms than Fabulus, while Worcester, Moriak, Gemini, Pegasus and Fabulus might all yet have been winners. Immediately passing the Monument, however, a change came over matters. Moriak took the leadership from China for a moment, but China challenged and ran neck and neck with him. Gemini, who had been awaiting his opportunity, now came through and was a splendid fourth, while he soon began to gallop alongside Russley who had to fight for third position. China led on the rails as they entered home straight.

Wye was seen to come out in the centre, but he fell away, while Gemini made the pace for Worcester and came down very rapidly. Marbles also showed, but was soon out of it. It looked, as if it was China's race, but Gemini obtained the second berth from the rails and the two ponies raced together. The jockeys were knee to knee as the ponies galloped past the Grand Stand, where the greatest excitement prevailed, and it was any one's race. Both ponies looked as if they could not put another inch of pace on, when, three lengths from the post, Mr. Moller roused his mount to a final effort and, Gemini responding at the psychological moment, everyone saw that China was beaten by the narrowest of margins as he was unequal to any further effort. It was a grand race and the struggle to catch the judge's eye first was so keen that most persons for the moment forgot the other runners. Worcester was third, being one length behind China. Moriak was fourth, Wye fifth, Marbles sixth, Fabulus last but one and Brockton last. The time was another record, viz 2.33 4/5, as against 2.34 by Moriak in the race for the Champions last spring Meeting. The owners and jockeys received an ovation as the ponies were led through the crowds in the paddock.

Pari-Mutuel.

Ponies.	Win.	Place.
Gemini	183	268
China	92	153
Worcester	31	66

Total shares taken 1,199 1,533

Dividends:—Win, \$29.40

Places, \$10.50, \$14.70 \$27.60

Cash sweep:—

Ticket No. 3397, 1st, \$27,808.20

" 2287, 2nd, \$ 7,945.20

" 3634, 3rd, \$ 3,972.60

18 qualified ponies at

\$150 each \$ 2,700.00

Commission, \$ 4,714.00

Total, \$47,140.00

LONDON RUBBER REPORTS.

BIG DIVIDENDS.

A telegram to the *Straits Times* says:—

The Selangor Rubber Company pays a dividend of 75 per cent. It carries £3,000 to reserve fund, £1,000 to depreciation, and £2,000 forward.

Linggi pays a final dividend of 40 per cent. making 60 for the year, while £4,000 is carried to reserve and about £1,000 forward.

Rubber shares generally are active, North Hummocks being a special feature.

The *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*, referring to rubber shares say: For sometime past these shares have been moving up as the price of rubber remains firm at about 5s. 3d. per lb., whilst the returns being made by some of the companies show distinct improvement. Thus during the past month Highland and Lowlands reported a production of over 27,000 lbs. as against some 13,000 lbs. in the corresponding month of 1908, and Federated Selangor showed 59,700 lbs. as against 23,600 lbs. Such increases are very satisfactory and only go to prove how important the out-put of British-grown rubber will be in the near future, but much of the gain has already been discounted in the prices at which many rubber shares stand. The level of quotations can only be justified by great increases in the output, and conservative elements in the market would prefer a little breathing time before efforts are made to push prices much higher. In less than two months prominent shares such as Anglo-Malay, Batu Caves, Bukit Rajahs, Federated Selangors, and Highlands and Lowlands have risen about 10s. to nearly £1 per share, and as they are all £1 shares the advance thus effected represents a considerable increase in capital value. Still, whatever may be the facts regarding market quotations, it is satisfactory to find the outlook for the industry so hopeful.

It is officially notified in the *London Gazette* that the King has appointed Mr. W. P. Ker to be Commercial Attache to His Majesty's Legation at Peking.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

PRINCE ITO.

Tokyo, May 2th.

There are insistent rumours of the impending resignation of Prince Ito as President-General of Korea.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINESE CONSULATE FOR HONGKONG.

Peking, May 11th.

The Board of Foreign Affairs has decided to establish Chinese Consulates in Hongkong, Java and Colombo.

PROPOSED NEW RAILWAY.

Peking, May 11th.

The Board of Communications intends to raise a loan of 5,000,000 taels for the construction of a railway from Honam Province to Tung Kwan.

ANTI-CHINESE FEELING IN MANCHURIA.

Peking, May 11th.

The Governor of Hei Leung Kiang Province has informed the Peking Government that there is a strong anti-Chinese feeling in Manchuria amongst the Russian workmen.

REVIEW.

Twentieth Century Impressions of Hongkong, Shanghai and other Treaty Ports of China. London: Lloyd's Greater Britain Publishing Co, Ltd.

Though like most books of the kind, the work has its defects, we can still congratulate the publishers upon the production of a volume which is eminently worthy of a prominent place in the libraries of all men interested in the Far East. The Publishers in a preface explain that the work is the outcome of an enterprise designed to give in an attractive form full and reliable information with reference to the outlying parts of the Empire. We think they are fully justified in claiming for this work that it is not only of solid and enduring value for purposes of reference and for practical business objects, but is also of unique interest to all who are concerned in the development of the Empire.

Including a very useful index, there are 848 quarto pages comprised within the Morocco covers of the book. Art paper has been used in order that the best results might be obtained in the printing of the numerous process-blocks used for illustrative purposes through out the work. There are scores,—we may say hundreds of portraits of men identified with the government and the business interests of these ports; there are views galore of the places described—picturesque scenery, scenes of every-day life, photographic reproductions of business offices, of mills and of stores. The publishers, anticipating no doubt some objection to the number of commercial photographs in the book, and the accompanying descriptive letterpress, make their defence in the preface. They remind us that a work of this magnitude cannot be produced except at very considerable cost. "As the publishers do not ask for any Government subsidy, because of the restrictions which it might impose upon them," (and because, we fancy, the application would be futile), "this cost has to be met in part by the receipts from the sale of copies and in part by revenue from the insertion of commercial photographs." The publishers venture to think that this fact furnishes no ground for adverse criticism. We do not entirely endorse that view. We agree that these photographs add to, rather than detract from, the value of the book, since "they serve to show the manifold interests of the country and constitute a picturesque and useful feature that is not without interest to the general reader and student of economics, while it is of undoubted value to business men throughout the Empire." This would all be true enough if these commercial photographs with the accompanying descriptive letterpress, en-

abled the reader to judge of the relative importance of the business enterprises which thus obtain advertisement. For example, the enterprising firm of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire employing in their various establishments scores of European assistants and hundreds of Chinese, are represented in the Hongkong section of the book by thirty-five lines of letterpress—less than is given to some of the "one horse shows" in the Colony. There is no "commercial photograph" of the new Taikoo dock—the largest in the East—and no view of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery, nor the Taikoo Office on the Praya, and no one would gather from a glance at the commercial photographs that the firm of Butterfield and Swire ranks where it does in the commercial, and industrial life of the port. There is nothing to indicate in the body of the book that these commercial photographs and letterpress descriptions are paid for according to space occupied and there seems to us to be justification for adverse criticism in that these commercial sections do not adequately show "the manifold interests" of the various places described.

We have nothing but praise for the historical sketches and the descriptions of the general features of the places covered by the title of the volume. Mr. Arnold Wright, the Editor-in-Chief is to be highly complimented on his review of the early history and development of Hongkong, Macao and the Treaty Ports of China, which occupies the first hundred pages of the book. It has been compiled from original materials preserved at the India Office, the British Museum and other national institutions, and forms a highly interesting and instructive narrative to which additional interest is given by photographic reproductions of ancient maps, old prints and paintings.

We can best indicate the comprehensive and valuable character of the more detailed descriptions of the places covered by the book by mentioning some of the features in the Hongkong section. Besides an excellent description of the Colony by Mr. H. A. Cartwright, the Assistant Editor, there are articles on the Local Legislature, the Courts, the Law (by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson), on Finance, by the Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson, Colonial Treasurer; Education, by Dr. G. H. Bateson-Wright; Public Works, by the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., Director of Public Works; on Posts, Cables and Telephones; on the Flora by Mr. S. T. Dunn; on the Fauna by Mr. J. C. Kershaw and Staff-Surgeon Kenneth H. Jones, R.N.; the Sanitary Board by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper; the Harbour and its Shipping, by Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., Harbour Master; Sport, by Mr. J. W. Bains; Health and Hospitals, by Dr. J. M. Atkinson; Police, Prisons and Fire Brigade, by Captain F. W. Lyons; Navy, Army and Volunteers (the article on the Volunteer Corps being contributed by Lt. Col. Chapman, the commandant). There are also articles on the Foreign Trade of China, on the I.M. Customs, on the Currency, on the tea, silk and cotton industries, on the Ceremonies and Customs of the Chinese (by Mr. S. W. Tso), on Chinese characters (by James B. Wong, B.A.); articles on the religious organisations by men well qualified to write on the subject; on social life, on the Press, on Meteorology, on Railways, and many other subjects. This list however will be sufficient to indicate the magnitude and comprehensive character of the work which in many respects will form a handsome reference volume of permanent interest and value.

It only remains for us to add with regard to the printing of the book, which was done by the well-known London firm of James Truscott and Son, Limited, who also produced the illustration blocks, that it is a triumph of the printer's art on which the firm is to be highly complimented.

OPIUM CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

THE GROWING PREFERENCE FOR OTHER CROPS.

We have already noticed the decline in popularity of opium cultivation in the Behar and Benares Agencies, (writes the *Pioneer*) and the annual report by the Bengal Board of Revenue shows in detail the reasons which influence the ryot in preferring other crops to that of the poppy. Unfavourable seasons, the rise in prices of food-grains and the dearness of labour have

all contributed to bring about a change. The average area cultivated has steadily diminished, and the villager no longer looks to the poppy plot to put money into his pocket, whatever may be the character of the seasons. Mr. Shirres, who took charge of the Behar Agency last October, draws attention to the fact that price paid to the cultivator for opium has remained fixed since 1894, while the price of other agricultural produce has risen. As regards rice in North and South Behar its average price from the ten years ending with 1894 was Rs. 3-2, or 23 per cent higher. If the case of barley, which is said to compete more directly with opium, the increase averaged 17 per cent. But this does not show the great rise in the last two or three years. In 1906 and 1907 the prices of rice and barley were actually 70 and 55 per cent, above the decennial average of 1884-94 and last year the figures were higher still. Mr. Shirres says:—"On the plots close to his dwelling the ryot raises his most valuable crops, namely, tobacco, chilees, potatoes, mustard, etc., and all these things are direct rivals of opium. Barley and wheat are also mentioned in the reports as competitors, and sugarcane competes indirectly by using up manure. It is said also that Java indigo is frequently ousting the poppy from its place for the Java plant remains in the ground for two years, and cannot therefore be grown as an alternating crop." One of the opium officers goes so far as to say that any crop now pays better than poppy, and this would really seem to be the case. It is clear from these statements that Government will have no difficulty in restricting the area under poppy in Behar, and that the cultivators will willingly fall into line in the matter. The less productive lands will no longer be licensed and the poppy crop dwindle to small dimensions. In favourable seasons, when the rainfall is good, the crop will probably pay a fair return, but so long as the prices of other products remain high there will be none of the old eagerness to cultivate the poppy.

COMMERCIAL

RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th May.—Some demand having come forward, the prices are advancing.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.80	to	\$4.70
" Round, Good quality ...	4.80	to	4.85
" Long	4.75	to	4.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.90	to	4.95
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.80	to	4.85
" White,	5.00	to	5.05
" Fine Cargo	5.15	to	5.20

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, May 13th.—Since the 15th ulto, the movements in the various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian				
Stocks on the 29th April, 1909—	3,657½	2,577	580	880
May 3rd Imports per <i>Lightning</i> ..	200	80	—	—
" 8th " " <i>Suisang</i> ..	150	15	—	—
" 18th " " <i>Laisang</i> ..	200	20	—	—
" 12th " " <i>Oceana</i> ..	134½	5	—	31
	3,782	3,132	685	911
Less Exports to Shanghai ..	352	200	75	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight ..	180	497	135	43

Estimated Stocks this day .. 3,260 2,435 485 868

Bengal.—The market is keeping steady in sympathy with the Shanghai market and prices have advanced to \$995. for Patna and \$1,015. for Benares.

Malwa.—The rise here is also due to the advance in Shanghai and we quote as follows:—New, \$1,090/1,100.; 3 years, \$1,130/1,150.; 4½ years \$1,170/1,200.

Persian.—We quote superior drug at \$1,020.

HONGKONG, May, 10th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,070/1,090	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,100/1,120	do.
Malwa Older	\$1,130/1,150	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,160/1,200	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,020/1,050	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$850/900	do.
Patna New	\$1,000	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,030	do.
Benares New	\$1,025	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

COAL.

HONGKONG, Apr. 14th.—The arrivals of coal since the 30th ult., amounted to 19,000 tons of Japanese, 7,300 tons Hongay and 825 tons Liverpool. The coal expected is 53,000 tons Japanese, 1,800 tons Hongay, 5,000 tons Borneo and 3,000 tons North China. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff... \$22.0 to 23.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Australian... \$12.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump... \$12.00 Nominal.
Mitsui Lump... \$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump... \$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreamed \$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump... \$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump... \$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

JAPANESE MARKET.

IMPORTS.

Yokohama, April 30th, 1909.—Cotton Yarns.—The usual small business in special counts is still passing, but beyond this there is nothing to report. An advance has taken place in Manchester piece during the past two weeks which has somewhat interfered with business. Cotton Piece Goods.—Here again the advance in Manchester has put a check on business. For Grey Printers there has been a little enquiry, whilst in Grey Shirtings buyers have apparently filled their requirements and there is nothing doing. White Shirtings and Cotton Italians have seen some enquiry lately. Woollen and Woollen Mixture.—This is still the between seasons interval, and there is nothing to report. Textiles Generally.—In Cotton Piece Goods there is a decidedly better tone on the Tokyo market. Clearances of Woollens and Woollen Mixtures continue satisfactory. Raw Cotton. Owing to the rise in prices at home business is still very quiet. Prices have been still further enhanced by the fire on board the steamer Satsuma and the stranding of the Indani, both of which vessels had considerable Cotton for Japan. Rice.—The tone of the market continues to improve, otherwise there is nothing special to report. Several cargoes have arrived at Yokohama during the past week, but these large importations have had no visible effect on prices. Metals.—The local market is dull with practically nothing doing. With the present outlook the prospect of doing business is very small until buyers begin looking for Autumn arrival. Window Glasses.—Business continues dull with prices about the same. Arrivals are fairly large. Sugar.—At the auction held on the 25th inst., 7,100 bags changed hands at the same prices as at the previous week's auction, viz., at from Yen. 17.80 to Yen. 18.70 per bag. Flour.—There are no transactions reported and until new-crop wheat is available no business is expected. Prices both on the Pacific Coast and Australia continue to advance. Wheat.—Prices for old crop continue to rule high and buyers are holding off until the new crop is available.

Kobe, 30th April, 1909.—Cotton.—American.—Prices have remained fairly steady since our last report, latest quotation of "forward" Middling being reported at Yen 34.25 at which rate, however, no business of importance has transpired. "Spot" Middling is quoted at Yen 32.75. Indian.—The high prices which have been ruling during the past month in the home market have checked operations locally. "Spot" likewise is at a standstill. Mills being fully supplied with requirements for the time being, are somewhat independent, and are preferring to await developments. Broach is quoted at Yen 29.00. Akola Kaunguam Yen 23.75. Bengal Yen 26.00. Chinese.—The large consumption in the home market combined with reports regarding shortage of stocks, have been the cause of prices being maintained on a high basis, in consequence of which no business has been done in this market. Best quality is quoted at Yen 29.00 and Common at Yen 26.00. Shirtings.—Quiet but a better tone prevail, quotations are nominal but if anything show a slight advance in sympathy with dearer Cotton. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Dull. Worsteds and Woollen.—Little change in "Spot" goods, slightly better demand for "forward." Metals.—There is little doing but prices for most articles are maintained if not advanced; the general feeling is distinctly more hopeful. Wire Nails forming an exception owing to recent heavy arrivals. Rice.—Market firm with upward tendency.

SUGAR.

Cane.—Raw.—Market dull. There is a very marked decrease in the figures of Sugar imported into Japan during the first three months of this year compared with the same period of last year, viz., Java Sugar Yen 65,000 against Yen 3,300,000, Germany Yen 800 against Yen 185,000. Osaka Refined.—At the auction held on the 23rd instant 3,500 Bags of Osaka Sugar and 1,000 Bags Kobe manufacture were disposed of at prices showing an advance of 5 to 10 Sen, while, 1,000 Bags Yokohama Sugar were sold at the same prices as obtained at last auction.

YARN.

HONGKONG.—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 14th May, states:—Shortly after the departure of last mail the market became very quiet owing to the steady rise in exchange, and continued particularly so throughout the past fortnight. Dealers are holding entirely aloof and a general disinclination on the part of buyers to continue operations is apparent, but with sellers anxious to clear their holding parcels, here and there, change hands whenever special inducement is offered. Business during the interval, consequently, has been very limited, and the few settlements, noted below show a decline of about a dollar per bale on previous quotations. Latterly there has been nothing doing and weakness is observable in the generalities of holders, but at the concession at present offered, buyers are, by no means, inclined to increase their holdings or interest, and a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. Meanwhile the market close unsteady. Bombay continues strong and latest telegram from that port quote best No. 10s annas 6½ and best No. 20s annas 7½ per pound. Sales of interval aggregated 2,481 bales, arrivals amount to 8,706 bales, unsold stock estimated at about 8,500, and uncleared yarn in second hands at about 20,500 bales. Local Manufacture.—No business has transpired. The mill is now getting past the local dealers and selling direct to the Agents of Canton, Haiphong and the Coast Ports. Japanese Yarn.—Neglected. Raw Cotton.—No demand has been experienced either for Indian or China descriptions and receipts are very small and stocks trifling. Latest advices from India and the North report a very firm market for the raw material. Quotations are, Indian \$26 to 30 and China \$27 to 30. Exchange on India after having touched Rs 137 for T. T. and Rs. 137½ for Post closes unsteady to-day at Rs. 134½ and Rs. 135 respectively. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 87½. The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the 3 weeks ended the 5th instant, viz.:—Indian.—Total sales about 5,000 bales at about previous rates market closing quiet Stocks about 30,000 bales. Japan sc.—Demand continues and sales of about 1,000 bales effected at unchanged rates. Market closes slightly easier. Local.—About 500 bales No. 16s have changed hands at Tls. 100. Close steady with further enquiries for distant delivery.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 7th May, 1909, state:—Since our last Report was written Silver has continued its upward course and sterling rates have advanced a further two per cent. This alone is sufficient cause for the continued quietness of our market, although it has been accelerated by the intervention of the usual Spring Race holidays that have occupied three days of this week. Notwithstanding the lack of news from the consuming districts, and a noticeable falling off in clearance, there is at the same time an undercurrent of enquiry that leads to the expectation of an improved demand in the near future for the Northern markets, and the buying that has been going on in American Sheetings and Drills quietly during the interval amongst the natives at practically unchanged prices in spite of the rise in Exchange, would seem to imply the markets there are stronger than they care to admit. From other quarters, too, orders are to hand, notably Szechuen, but so far the offers that are being made are far too low to lead to business from stock, though we understand some 200 bales Manchester heavy Shirtings under old chops have been placed for early arrival. Otherwise business is practically confined to the Auctions, and seeing the important place they occupy in the trade now we are trying to present their particulars in a more clear and interesting form, giving the previous week's prices for ready comparison. Again there is

nothing of interest to advise from our dependencies. The various reforms that have been promulgated during the past few months are still far from consummation, and the petty obstacles that are being put in the way of any forward propositions, that could only redound to the benefit of the Country at large, makes it appear very doubtful if the progressive spirit that is supposed to inspire the Prince Regent is really sincere or not. Manchester is strong, the high prices preventing business with this market going through, not that there can be much desire to buy in face of the heavy export, 52,000,000 yards for last month, making 183,000,000 yards for the four months, against 122,000,000 yards for the same period last year. Cotton is steady in Liverpool at 5.51d. for spot and 5.48d. August/September option. Egyptian is unchanged at 8½d. The New York market is steady, the latest Cotton quotations being 10.41 cents for July, and December has advanced to 10.40 cents. There is some talk of a cheap Pacific service that can compete with the Suez route which is taking the bulk of the freight to the Far East just now. The market for Imported Yarns has relaxed into a very quiet state, buyers endeavouring to obtain a substantial reduction in view of the more favourable remittance rates, but which holders, both Foreign and Native, will not listen to in face of the enhanced prices in Bombay. As regards business from first hands but little can be said. Sales from stock seem to be reduced to a minimum in both English and American goods, for early arrival, however, we hear some 200 bales 12-lbs. 36 inch Shirtings have been placed, and in the latter 1,000 pieces Orr. A. Shirtings at Tls. 4.60 for prompt clearance. From second hands, however, there are quite a number of transactions recorded in American goods, the following being some of the sales that have reached us, showing remarkably firm prices considering the advance in Exchange:—In sheetings Buffalo L. L. Tls. 3.90, Bat and Peach Tls. 4.65, Dwight A. and Piedmont Tls. 4.70, Leray A. Tls. 4.77½, Abbeville Tls. 4.80, Cameron and Whitney Tls. 4.90 and Buck's Head Tls. 4.95, and in Drills, Piedmont K. Tls. 4.45. The quantity in each case was quite moderate.

AMONG PRICES CURRENT & MARKET REPORT.

30th April, 1909

IMPORTS.

	Quantity
Cotton... ..	piculs 90
Yarn... ..	" 3,247
Cotton Piece Goods—	
Grey Shirtings... ..	pieces 3,100
T. 10ths... ..	" 3,725
White Shirting... ..	" 3,148
Turkey Red... ..	" 1,770
Drills... ..	" 850
Figured Shirtings... ..	" 63
Shirtings Dyed Brocades... ..	" 343
Woollens—	
Camlets, Scarlet... ..	" 211
Spanish Stripes, Scarlet... ..	yards 272
Metals—	
Lead, Best Brands... ..	piculs 60
Tin, Malacca... ..	" 337
Mail Road Iron... ..	" 405
Quicksilver... ..	" 3
Old Iron... ..	" 199
Ironwire... ..	" 36
Rice... ..	" 51,293
Opium—	
Patan... ..	" 40
Benares... ..	" 280
Persian... ..	" 17
Malwa... ..	" 2
Prepared... ..	" 1
Szechuen... ..	" 91
Yunnan... ..	" 91
Sesamum Seed... ..	" 2,471
Paper... ..	" 27
Sapanwood... ..	" 223
Sandalwood... ..	" 99
Ratons... ..	" 2,115
Wheat... ..	" 13,044
Flour... ..	" 205,046
Beancake... ..	" 105,534
Pean... ..	" 616
Beche de Mer... ..	" 455,570
Kerosene—	
American Casas... ..	galls. 95,180
Borneo Tins... ..	" 95,180
Sumatra Tins... ..	" 2,680
Coal... ..	tons 1,381
Tobacco Leaf... ..	piculs 1,709
Vermicelli... ..	"

EXPORTS.

Sugar—		
Amoy White, No. 1 ..	595	
Candy	3,080	
Hemp—		
Bags Old	104,150	
Sacking	14,800	
Paper—		
1 Quality	3,295	
2	742	
Tobacco	1,395	
Kittysols	1,550	

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 14th May, 1909.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	piece	\$1.80	—
7 lbs.	"	2.40	—
8.4 lbs.	"	—	—
10 lbs.	"	4.10 to	5.30
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	"	2.45 to	3.45
58/60	"	3.55 to	5.85
64/66	"	6.00 to	7.05
Fine	"	7.95 to	9.05
Book-folds	"	3.05 to	6.05
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	"	0.65 to	1.80
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	"	1.95 to	2.20
7 lbs.	"	2.25 to	3.35
6 lbs. "Mexicans" ..	"	—	—
7 lbs.	"	2.70 to	3.80
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) ..	"	3.20 to	4.20
Drills, English—40 yds. (32 in.)	"	4.30 to	5.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 2	6 lbs. piece	1.72 to	5.10
Brocades—Dyed	yard	0.10 to	0.15
Chinese—Assorted	"	0.07½ to	0.35
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	"	0.25 to	0.55
Velveteens—18 in.	"	0.23 to	0.28
Handkerchiefs—Imitation } Silk per dozen }		0.50 to	4.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	yard	0.70 to	2.00
German	"	2.00	—
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths ..	"	1.25 to	3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	"	7.80 to	9.40
Assorted	"	7.90 to	9.40
Cumlets—Assorted	"	—	—

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches)	Assorted	14.00 to	21.00
Orleans—Plain	"	9.00 to	12.00
Blankets—8 to 12	lbs.	0.60 to	1.50

RAW COTTON—

Bombay	picul	\$23.00 to	\$28.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon	"	—	—
and Dacca	"	23.00 to	28.50
Shanghai and Japanese ..	"	24.00 to	28.00
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	"	24.00 to	28.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	picul	\$ 4.00	—
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.) ..	"	3.90	—
Swedish Bar	"	4.05	—
Small Round Rod	"	4.25	—
Hoop, ½ to 1½ in.	"	5.60	—
Wire, 16/25 oz.	"	9.50	—
Old Wire Rope	"	3.00	—
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	"	9.30	—
Australian	"	10.00	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz.	"	38.50	—
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	"	38.50	—
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	"	38.50	—
Tin	"	88.00	—
Tin-Plates	box	7.30	—
Steel	cwt. case	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS—

Quicksilver	picul	157.50	—
Window Glass	box	5.60	—
Kerosene Oil	case	—	—
Saltpetre, No. 1	picul	\$11.00 to	11.80
Do. No. 2	"	10.60 to	10.70
Do. No. 3	"	10.00 to	10.30
Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.64	—
Crown	"	4.00	—
Crescent	"	2.60	—
Orient	"	2.55	—
Brown Bear	"	2.65	—
Choice	"	2.70	—
White Lily	"	2.70	—
White Fawn	"	2.69	—
Morjon	"	2.69	—
Cow	"	2.69	—

EXPORTS:—

SILK

RAW SILK.—Our last report was dated the 12th inst., and during the fortnight under review our market has been quiet and prices have declined. Some business has been done for Europe. Quotations for fine sizes remain more or less steady, supplies of these Silks being very small. At the close, things are again firmer, Japanese exporters showing signs of renewed activity.

WASTE SILK.—Market quiet, without any change in prices. Settlements from April 12th to April 25th, 1,500 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to April 25th, 58,000 piculs. Stock on April 26th is estimated at 5,000 piculs, viz.:—Noshi 800 piculs, Kibizzo 3,300 piculs, Pierce Cocoons Sundries 850 piculs, Total 5,000 picul, against last year 11,000 piculs.

HABUTAI.

KANAZAWA.—There is no change of note to record during the past fortnight. Prices remain practically stationary. There is no important business to report from America, and European buyers have been almost entirely confining their attention to 23 inch, the demand for which has seemingly increased. Echizen.—The market has remained firm, and there has been an increasing demand for superior quality goods, which, however, continue difficult to obtain. It is pleasing to note that more care is observed in the classification. Weights are more reliable, and the shortcomings and defects of pieces are more plainly indicated. Kawamata.—Prices are a little firmer, the chief enquiry being for 36 inch goods.

COPPER.

Copper.—Market has shown a slight improvement and small transactions have been closed in various brands. Fish Oil.—The Herring catch is progressing only slowly, and results up to now are short in comparison with the results of the same period last year. Rice.—Farmers are holding back their stocks and market is strong and advancing. Cotton Yarn.—A steady business doing for "forward" delivery, and the market continues firm,—nothing doing in "Spot" goods owing to scarcity of supplies. Vegetable Wax.—Market quiet, but firm. Buyers' ideas are considerably lower than quotation. Matting.—Market dull. Common Jacquards can only be sold at a loss to the makers, and the production has consequently been curtailed. Straw Braid.—Chip Braid.—No change to report since last advices.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG 14th May.—There is nothing to report in this market, and prices are the same.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 5th May.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 38.50
Do. seconds	3.500
Buffalo hides, best selected	22.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	8.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	7.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	10.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheung ..	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	9.80
Animal Tallow	10.60
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.20
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.50
Tobacco, Tungchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Black Bristles, Ridings	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck ..	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	5.25
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.50
Tea Oil	—

Messrs Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular, Dated Shanghai, 7th May, 1909. State:—Gallnuts.—Market firm. Some demand for new season cargo. Cowhides.—Market easy. Arrivals continue in fair quantities. Feathers.—Market quiet. Stocks increasing. Cotton.—Market very strong. No business for Export to Europe is being done. Tallow.—Owing to the approach of the hot weather, business in White Tallow is suspended. In Green Tallow, which is not so susceptible to heat, a small business is transacted. Wood Oil.—Hardly any demand. Sesamumseed.—Market strong and prices advancing, especially for the Yellow Seed. Strawbraid.—Market was at a standstill during the 1st week and still very weak during the 2nd week. There were a fair number of arrivals in Shan-i Mottled, prices of which were however too high to allow of business. Wool.—Sheeps.—Fairly large stocks. As Sellers are firm and the Home Markets are not increasing their recent limits, the advance in Exchange has checked business. Antimony.—Steady demand. Prices very firm.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 14th May, 1909.—The market has ruled firm during the week under review but in the absence of sellers to meet the demand in most stocks, business has been restricted. Rates with very few exceptions are higher and the market closes steady to strong. Exchange on London 1/10 closes at 1/9½ and on Shanghai at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at 945, but with a continued demand the rate improved to 950 with buyers, and apparently no sellers at the moment. The London rate remains unchanged. Nationals call for no remarks.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have been in fair demand and the rate has risen to 845, after small sales at 830, 835, and 840, the market closing steady with buyers at the higher rate. Cantons have advanced to 200 after sales at 195. North Chinas are quoted at Tls. 100 buyers with no sales to report. Yangtzes are steady at 225.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires with a demand from the North suddenly hardened and after sales at 337½ gradually rose to 345, at which the market closes firm. Chinas have been placed in fair lots at 107 but close firmer with buyers at 118.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue to rule steady and small sales have been effected at 31½, the market closing with sellers at that rate. Indos ruled weak in the early part of the week, but a demand from the North again sent the rate up to 80 for the combined shares, and a fair business has been transacted at that, after small sales at 79. Star Ferrys have been placed at the improved rate of 26, and Shells have improved to 58/6 with buyers but no sales. China Manilas continue on offer at 11.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled firm and after several sales at 137½ have been placed at 140, at which latter rate they close strong. Luzons remain unchanged with sellers at 16, and no business to report.

MINING.—Ranba have advanced considerably and after a small sale at 8 in the early part of the week close at 9½ buyers, with but few sales at intermediate rates. Chinese Engineerings are enquired for in the North at 16½ ex dividend but we have heard of no sales. Charbonages could be placed at 625 but no shares seem to be available.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have suffered another relapse and are now quoted at 70 with sellers and no business to report. Kowloon Wharfs have changed hands during the week at 57, 57½ and at time of closing at 58, the market closing steady with buyers at the last rate. Shanghai Docks remain unchanged and without any reported business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue in demand and with but few shares obtainable the rate has advanced to 102 after sales at 101½. Hotels have been placed at 71 (old) while the new issue is on offer at 42, without inducing any buyers to come forward. Humphreys have found further buyers at 9 and at time of closing more shares are wanted at the rate. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have been placed at 12½, and Hongkongs at 8½, further than these we have no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell, Moores have been placed at 12, China Borneos at 12½. China Providents at 9½. Electrics at 8½. New Peak Trams at 2 and Watsons at 9. China Lights have been dealt in to some extent at 5½, to 6½ closing with sellers at 6 and buyers at 5½. Langkats have ruled rather weaker, closing with sellers in the North at 1140. Union water Boats have found buyers and close in demand at 0½.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra, Ltd.	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$950, buyers £89.10.0
National B. of China	£6	\$51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12½, sales & sel.
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$10, buyers
China Provident	\$1	\$6, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$8½, sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 91
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 112
Soychee	Tls. 5-0	Tls. 400
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$16½, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$70, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
S'hai & H. Wharf....	Tls. 100	Tls. 170
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$8.90, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas....	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric....	\$10	\$18½, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co. {	\$50	\$71, (old)
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$42, (n.) sal. & sel.
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$25	\$155, sellers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$100	Nominal
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$24, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$197½
China Fire	\$20	\$108, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$85½, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$345
North China	\$25	Tls. 104, buyers
Union	\$100	\$45
Yangtze	\$60	\$225
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$102, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
West Point Building	\$50	\$44
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Ps. 250	\$625, buyers
Raub	18/10d.	\$9½, buyers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$14
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$1	\$2, sales
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$140, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$16, sellers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$11, sellers
Douglas Steamship...	\$50	\$36
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$31½, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	\$52, } L'don sel. \$28, } £7.5
Shell Transport Co.	£1	\$58/6
Star Ferry	\$10	\$25, sales & buy.
South China M. Post...	\$5	\$15, buyers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$25	\$24, sellers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$5½, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M & Co....	\$10	\$12, sales
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$3, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$3½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9, sales
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$150, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
United Asbestos	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$10½, sales & buy

—VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

5th May, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$990, sellers
National of China...	£6	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$778, ex. div.
North-China	£5	Tls. 105, buyers
Yangtze Assoc. ...	\$60	\$235, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$337½, sales
China Fire.....	\$20	\$107, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo - China { pref. def. }		Tls. 60, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. & Trading { pref. S'hai 'Tug & { ord. Lighter ... { pref. Taku Tug & Lighter Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	£1 10 T50 T50 T50	£214.6 £9.10.0 Tls. 52½, buyers Tls. 55, buyers Tls. 48 Tls. 45, sales
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Ery...	T100	Tls. 85½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 168, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 160, buyers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$112½, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	£1 18/10	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	Tls. 18
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 18, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104
Weihsaiwei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 101, buyers
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 123, sales
International	T75	Tls. 92
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 112
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 405
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 113, buyers
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 40, buyers
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill ...	T50	Tls. 39, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement...	\$10	\$9½, sales
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat.....	Gs. 100	Tls. 1,065, sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 132½, sellers
S'hai Waterworks...	£20	Tls. 415, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$80, sellers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	Tls. 20, sales
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 115, buyers
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 155, buyers
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	£1	Tls. 11, buyers
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£8.7.6. sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$23, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$9
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$18½, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$45, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$26, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$20½, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50.00	Tls. 90, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$35, sales
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 52, buyers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 62, buyers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sales
Dallas Horse Re- pository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.....	T50	Tls. 50

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending May 6th, state:— The Race Holidays have interfered with business during the past week, leaving us with only three days actual business to report, and again the special feature of this week's business has been in Langkat shares, which at closing show a continued rise. Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—A sale is reported at \$985. Insurance.—Yangtze shares are offering at \$235 for cash and North-Chinas are quoted at Tls. 105 nominal. Shipping.—Indo Chinas remain fairly steady, but at closing there are sellers at Tls. 59 cash and Tls. 60 for June. Shanghai Tugs are wanted Ordinaries at Tls. 50 and Preference at Tls. 55. Kochins have been placed at Tls. 44. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. shares have placed at Tls. 87 and Tls. 88 June, and at the close the market is quiet, the cash quotation being Tls. 85 and Tls. 87 June nominal. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. Sales are reported in these at Tls. 167½ June. The closing quotation is Tls. 167 sales for cash and Tls. 168 for June. Sugars.—Perak Sugars have been placed at Tls. 160 for cash. The market closing with sellers at this rate. Mining.—No business to report. Lands.—No business reported. Shanghai Lands are wanted at Tls. 118. Industrial.—In Cotton Stocks. Ewos are quoted at Tls. 121 buyers, and Tls. 123 sales have been effected for June. Internationals, Tls. 92 nominal for cash and Tls. 94 sellers for June. Laou Kung Mows, Tls. 112 nominal and 114 sellers for June. Soy chees, Tls. 400 nominal. China Flours have been placed at Tls. 29. Shanghai Gas have buyers at Tls. 113. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. The market opened on the 29th with sales at Tls. 1,060 for cash and Tls. 1,060 for June. On the 30th cash shares changed hands at Tls. 1,065 and Tls. 1,067½ with sales for June at Tls. 1,085 and Tls. 1,09½. On the 1st at Tls. 1,100 June and Tls. 1,085 cash. At closing business has been done at Tls. 1,150, 1,155, 1,160 with a direct quotation at Tls. 1,170 for June, and for September at Tls. 1,200 and we hear of transactions at Tls. 1,230. Shanghai Sumatra are wanted at Tls. 130 for cash and Tls. 132½ for June. Anglo German Brewery Co. A small number of shares are wanted at \$75. In Rubber shares Kalumpungs have changed hands at Tls. 115 and Senawang shares at Tls. 157½ at which price there are buyers. Tabongs have changed hands at Tls. 11½ and Tls. 11½. Dominion Rubbers at Tls. 6½. Shanghai Ices have been placed at Tls. 15. Shanghai Pulps at Tls. 42½. Miscellaneous.—Astor House shares have been placed at \$20½. Central Stores at Tls. 18½. Hotel des Colonies. Shares are offering at Tls. 6. Telephones at Tls. 63. Tramway shares have been placed at £8.7.6. Moutries at \$45. Dunnings have sellers at \$40. Loans and Debentures.—In Debenture Stocks there is no business reported, excepting in Municipal 6 per cent Debentures at 4½ and 5 per cent premium.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	HONGKONG, May 14th.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	226
Credits 4 months' sight	230
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	183½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank, on demand	135
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	134½
Bank on demand	135
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	87½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	88½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	77
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	107½
ON HATCHENG.—	
On demand	10½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	10 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	83½
FOREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.05
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58
SILVER per oz.	24½

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 5th May.—Per Conference Steamers To London and Northern Continental ports 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 82/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G \$1.50 cents per lb gross less than carload Tea G \$1.75 cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 14th May.—Tonnage is getting very scarce, most of the medium sized carriers having gone North. From Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul last, the local rice market continuing dull; to Philippines, 23 cents offering; to North Coats Java, 26 cents last; to South Coast Japan, 24 cents. From Yangtze ports to Canton, the regular liners are getting 23 candareens per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents last and offering; to Amoy, 28 cents. From Iloilo to Yangtze ports, 32 cents has been paid for one and 34 cents for two ports of discharge. Coal freights remain firm, tonnage being scarce. From South Japan Coal port to this, \$2.00 per ton last; to Canton, \$3.00; to Singapore, \$3.00. Time charters. A large number of boats have been closed in Shanghai at good rate.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May:—

ARRIVALS.

- 6, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
- 6, Kiang Ching, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.
- 6, Monmouthshire, Br. str., from Dalny.
- 6, Tamsui, British str., from Swatow.
- 6, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 7, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 7, Denbighshire, British str., from London.
- 7, Euplectela, Br. str., from Balik Pappan.
- 7, Glenturret, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Hainun, British str., from Swatow.
- 7, Holstein, German str., from Amoy.
- 7, Korat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Locksun, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 7, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 8, Aldenham, British str., from Sydney.
- 8, Briggavia, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Dagny, Nor. str., from Tuticorin.
- 8, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Kjeld, Nor. str., from Newchwang.
- 8, Liberia, German str., from Hankow.
- 8, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Peking, Swedish str., from Shanghai.
- 8, Poona, British str., from London.
- 8, Selja, Norwegian str., from Manila.
- 8, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 9, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 9, Onsang, British str., from Hongay.
- 9, Polynesien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 9, Yeboshi M., Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 9, Yingchow, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Choising, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 10, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
- 10, Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.
- 10, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 10, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Senegambia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 10, Tsintan, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 11, Choshu Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 11, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 11, Laisang, British str., from Singapore.
- 11, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., from Weihaiwei.
- 11, Sexta, Ger. str., from Singapore.
- 11, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 12, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 12, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 12, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 12, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
- 12, Hsing Shun, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.
- 12, Kiang Ping, Chi. str., from Chinkiang.
- 12, Kennebec, British str., from Swatow.
- 12, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 12, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Oceana, British str., from Bombay.
- 12, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.

- 13, Banri M., Jap. str., from Muke.
- 13, Benlmond, British str., from Singapore.
- 13, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 13, Heim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Knivsberg, German str., from Hoihow.
- 13, Namsang, British str., from Yokohama.

May:—

DEPARTURES.

- 7, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Germania, German str., for Newchwang.
- 7, Hanoi, French str., for K. C. Wan.
- 7, Helios, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 7, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
- 7, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
- 7, Knivsberg, German str., for Hoihow.
- 7, Marie, German str., for Hankow.
- 7, Thordis, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., for Woosung.
- 8, Denbighshire, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Empress of China, Br. str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Euplectela, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 8, Montrose, British str., for Moji.
- 8, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, Providence, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 9, Ashtabula, British str., for Kobe.
- 9, Briggavia, German str., for Singapore.
- 9, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 9, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 9, Huichow, British str., for Chefoo.
- 9, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
- 9, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Singapore.
- 9, Peking, Swedish str., for Saigon.
- 9, Poona, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Quinta, German str., for Wuhu.
- 9, Volute, British str., for Balik Pappan.
- 10, Liberia, German str., for Hamburg.
- 10, Mandal, German str., for Karatsu.
- 10, Polynesien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 11, Aldenham, British str., for Kobe.
- 11, Anghui, German str., for Bangkok.
- 11, Ceylon Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 11, China, American str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Glenturret, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 11, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Holstein, German str., for Iloilo.
- 11, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Monteagle, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 11, Tonkin, French str., for Saigon.
- 11, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 11, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Binh Thuan, French str., for Saigon.
- 12, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
- 12, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
- 12, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 12, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 12, L. Scheiff, German str., for Chinkiang.
- 12, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
- 12, Numantia, German str., for Moji.
- 12, Oceana, British str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Senegambia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 12, Soshu Maru, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Ulv, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 13, Drufar, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.
- 13, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 13, Kjeld, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
- 13, Lightning, British str., for Singapore.
- 13, Selja, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
- 13, Sexta, German str., for Amoy.
- 13, Yingchow, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Tonkin*, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Kiddle, Mr and Mrs Colars, Mrs Blanche Richards, Mrs Love, Mrs Atwood, Mrs Anna Marschak, Miss MacKenzie, Messrs E. S. Sithna, W. H. Laurence, A. D. Gourdin, H. Mancell, A. L. Zellensky, Schmit & 2 boys, and B. Schaep.

Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs F. L. Sward, Col. and Mrs H. K. Bailey, Mrs F. P. Holm, Mrs H. Mason, Mrs R. Martinez, Miss P. Martinez, Capt. J. F. Madden, Messrs A. Everton, J. R. Jackson, R. Bubb, G. F. Desbien, F. Martinez, T. Engster, A. E. Barin, R. N. Napkil, W. Gordon, Pedro Morras, child and servant.

Per *Anhui*, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Kohler, Capt. Arthur, Messrs Richardson and Langtry.

Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Dr. Mukhopadaya, Messrs Jameson, Robert Knight, Hugh Knight and Paul Knight.

Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mrs Poizat and 2 children, Lient. C. T. Jewell, Messrs D. H. Waddington, A. Poizat and E. de Marcado.

Per *Nikko Maru*, from Melbourne, &c., Major and Mrs B. F. Frazer, Messrs H. Phillips and S. Phillips, Messrs C. D. Palmer, Frank J. Sydney, Fred Sydney, Denehy, C. de Cast and L. Egnia.

Per *Hakata Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mrs J. McEvoy, Mrs J. Hannex, Misses A. J. Haentsche, G. and H. McEvoy, Messrs S. Williams, B. Nakasawa, K. Takagi, N. Murakami, M. Mackeller, J. F. Kearney, M. Takahashi, K. Komatsuzaki, I. Omiya, K. Tachisane, H. M. Ross and K. Kumada.

Per *Polynesien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr J. Berthand; from Djibouti, Mr Tabarelli; from Colombo, Messrs L. St. Amant and V. Bounden; from Singapore, Mrs Pareto and Mr T. H. Huggalt; from Saigon, Mrs Liza, Mrs Bessie, Mrs Gensa, Mrs Paulina, Misses Bonassi & Maria, Messrs H. P. Dekker, Haltermann, Remy, Paul Mendigal, Palojyski Bessissia and Partoni.

Per *Oceana*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr H. Wodehouse; from Marseilles, Messrs Y. Sakurai, T. W. Warre and Rogers Skerrett; from Port Said, Mrs M. King; from Bombay, Mrs Ruttonjee and child, Messrs Chinai and D. S. Paowalla; from Singapore, Messrs C. D. Coffin, Kindersley, J. de Souza and H. Paethe; for Shanghai, from London, Mr H. Capel; from Marseilles, Messrs H. Butterworth and N. G. Beale; from Brindisi, Mr W. Doran; from Bombay, Messrs Tamari and Kurokawa; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Johnson, Messrs V. Chirol, T. G. Walker, T. M. Leitch and H. C. Muriel; from Bombay, Miss L. Baird and Mr Thurman.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hakata Maru*, for London, &c., Mr and Mrs Geo. Davidson, Mr and Mrs Holmes, Mr and Mrs Vardon and 5 children, Mrs J. Thomas, Mrs J. B. Harrop, Mrs Lee, Misses Tauner and Forbes, Rev. Ronald, Captain Cornelienassen, Messrs Khumbata, H. E. Gilroy, D. Hars, D. J. Piza, K. Kondo, J. R. Birbeck, P. S. Nairn, Jones, C. Dekast, Fadli, Young, Wignall and T. Fukazawa.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs G. A. Fisher, Mr and Mrs C. R. de Ynchausti, Mr and Mrs J. W. Cornwall, Mr and Mrs Aitken, Misses U. Gass and J. F. Colvin, Messrs C. Hurst, J. C. Sanborn, A. Carmona, H. Engster, E. Scheunemann, T. Wallace, L. Brownlow, C. Tugenohl, C. Tiamco, B. Richards, J. H. Ogle, O. L. Ogle, W. Kennedy, J. Berthard and W. H. Laurence.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs P. E. Newell, Jr., Mr and Mrs C. L. Russell, Mr and Mrs J. R. Squires and 2 children, Lt. and Mrs F. L. Sward, Rev. and Mrs F. M. Stead, Mrs W. H. Campkin and 2 children, Mrs F. H. Kew, Mrs M. Coquard, Mrs H. J. Brawne, Mrs E. E. Thacher, Mrs A. Ritchie and daughter, Misses T. Koo, F. L. Larson, C. W. Rosenstock and 3 children, Revs. J. C. Rossins and Sol. E. Miller, Serg. Lewis Morris, Messrs H. B. Atwell, T. C. Hian, A. B. Clark, Geo. F. Dessiah, F. L. Chapman, B. Miller, D. Osborne and 4 children, F. S. Grey, J. Bury, A. Everton, J. H. Ruggett, H. A. McDonald, D. H. Waglington and D. P. Wiley.

Per *Monteagle*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Drummond, Mr, Mrs and Misses Sheffield, Mr and Mrs T. W. Robertson and family, Capt. and Mrs Payne, Rev. and Mrs France and family, Rev. and Mrs Morton, Rev. and Mrs Boyd and family, Col. and Mrs Lander, Lady Piggott, Mrs Bunbury and child, Mrs Alice S. Johnson, Mrs Roefe and child, Mrs Iothier, Misses Plumb, Underwood and Plunkett, Col. Baker, Major MacDonald, Capt. Crowe, Dr. R. McGregor, Messrs S. S. Burnett, Fletcher, J. M. Irving, Quick, Ewing Smith, F. A. Baker, S. Hooker, Bubb, B. Moulder, J. R. Jackson, D. C. Fox, S. Haughton, Linton, Bennett, P. J. Chryssecos, W. Hourtz & J. L. McPherson.

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